

السنة الأولى

Friday January 5 1996

Abu Dhabi D 0.50	Hong Kong HK\$ 2.5	Pakistan R 70
Albania L 220	Hungary F 200	Poland Z 2.70
Andorra P 10	Iceland IK 185	Portugal E 200
Austria S 13.50	India IN 15.00	Romania R 1.50
Bahrain B 0.50	Israel IS 2.00	Saudi Arabia R 10
Belgium BF 30	Italy I 1,000	Slovenia SIT 250
Bulgaria L 170	Japan Y 100	Spain P 225
Croatia KN 12.50	Korea K 100	Sweden SK 200
Czech Republic KCZ 45	Kuwait KD 0.50	Switzerland SF 3
Denmark DK 15	Latvia US\$ 1.50	Thailand B 85
Dollar D 1.00	Lithuania US\$ 2	Turkey TL 100,000
East Germany M 10	Malta ML 0.43	Ukraine US\$ 2.00
Finland FM 11	Netherlands G 3.75	USA US\$ 2.15
France FF 10	Norway NK 15	
Germany DM 3.50	Poland PL 100	
Greece G 200	Romania R 100	

# The Guardian

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,441

Books: Julian Barnes, Barry Humphries, Henry Fielding and the Lottery

## Review

With European weather



## Daylight Robbery

Rab C Nesbitt interview

Roy Hattersley

## The monarchy is a farce

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# Court challenge to Saudi's 'political deportation'

Government admits decision to throw out dissident is aimed at protecting relations with Riyadh

**Souras Milne and Ian Black**

**T**HE British deportation order against Saudi Arabia's most prominent dissident will be challenged in the courts, human rights and political leaders pledged yesterday, after a government minister admitted the decision had been taken to protect relations with the kingdom.

Claude Moraes, director of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, said his organisation was prepared to seek judicial review of the order against Mohammed al-Mas'ari on the basis of remarks made yesterday by the Home Office minister, Ann Widdecombe, and was taking legal advice last night.

Mr Mas'ari, leader of the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights, who has been given until January 19 to appeal against his expulsion to the Caribbean island of Dominica, said he was prepared to fight the decision in the High Court if necessary.

The prospect of a legal challenge came as news of the deportation order was greeted with outrage by opposition politicians at home and consternation in the Middle East.

But the Government appeared ready to brazen out the controversy with its unqualified confirmation that the expulsion was primarily aimed at maintaining good relations with oil-rich Saudi Arabia.

Mrs Widdecombe denied that there had been any "blackmailing pressure", but

said the Government had had representations from Riyadh and "people in British business" about Mr Mas'ari, who was "complicating our relations with the Saudis".

"If people come here and use our hospitality in order to attack extremely friendly governments with whom we have good diplomatic and very good trade relations, we have a very difficult balance to strike. On this occasion, we have concluded that British interests do require his removal."

Mr Moraes said Mrs Widdecombe's comments exposed the decision to legal challenge because she had acknowledged that the Government

had used discretion in the deportation decision. The move evidently had nothing to do with Mr Mas'ari not being "conducive to the public good", as required by the Immigration Act.

At a Westminster press conference, Mr Mas'ari said he felt "pity that such a great country has come to this level. It is like a very dignified businessman, working in the markets, his word is more valuable than his signature — and suddenly he gives up all that reputation, all that character, all that dignity, for two or three drug deals."

He added that the opposition would continue its fight for an elected Islamic government in Saudi Arabia whenever they were sent.

Doug Henderson, Labour home affairs spokesman, demanded assurances from ministers that the Government had stuck to the law and the UN Convention on asylum and that Mr Mas'ari had been treated as any other refugee.

Lord Avebury, the Liberal Democrat peer and chairman of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group, said he was "appalled" by the Government's decision. It had "given way to blackmail".

Ken Livingstone, Labour MP for Brent East — where the Saudi dissident leader has been based for the past 18 months — said Mr Mas'ari's interests were being sacrificed to "suck up to the Saudis".

The deportation order was greeted with alarm by other Arab opposition movements based in London. "The great British democracy has surrendered to the most corrupt regime in the world," the editor of an independent London-based Arabic newspaper said.

Meanwhile, Tunisian diplomats demanded similar action against Rashid Ghanouchi, a fundamentalist leader granted asylum in Britain despite his alleged involvement in terrorist attacks at home.

It also emerged that Mr Mas'ari had been seeking permission to operate a television station to broadcast to Saudi Arabia. This prompted a frantic attempt by the Home Office to amend the guidelines of the Independent Television Commission to require consideration of Britain's national security interests.

Businessmen welcomed the decision to expel Mr Mas'ari. "It was in the interests of the UK to try to remove a man who was abusing British hospitality," said John Grundon, of the Middle East Association, the leading trade body for the region.

Companies piled on pressure, page 5; Leader comment, page 6

# Market axing stuns City

**Lisa Buckingham**

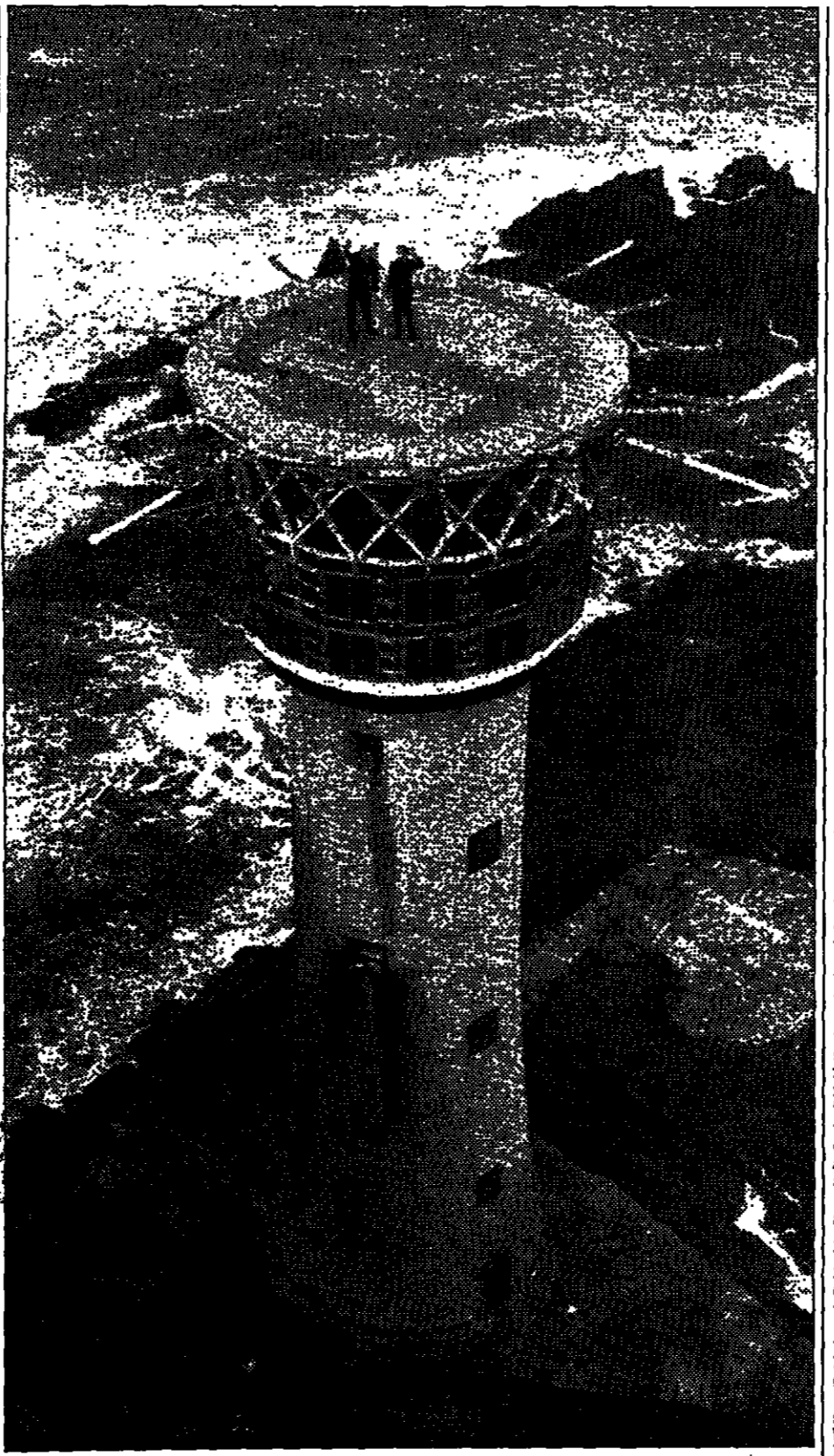
**L**ONDON'S future as a world financial centre was plunged into crisis last night after the Stock Exchange unexpectedly sacked its chief executive, Michael Lawrence, and blamed him for a loss of confidence in the market.

The announcement stunned the City, even though major stockbroking firms had been mounting a fierce rearguard action against some of the innovations Mr Lawrence was trying to introduce. They had accused Mr Lawrence of trying to move too quickly and ignoring their concerns.

Modernisation of the Stock Exchange is seen as crucial to London's attempts to maintain its international role and draw business from the big finance houses around the world. Mr Lawrence had been pursuing a strategy of altering the way in which shares are transacted in London, bringing practice more into line with other financial markets. But the City's big battalions have spent hundreds of millions of pounds in recent years developing computer systems and trading staff to work in the London stock market's specialised way.

The latest debacle at the Stock Exchange comes at a time when the City's main institutions are under increasing pressure. Lloyd's of London, one of three pillars of the Square Mile, is currently in a battle for its survival as it seeks to settle its differences with investors. The second pillar, the Stock Exchange, now faces turmoil with its leadership among European bourses potentially threatened. Only the third pillar, the Bank of England, stands reasonably secure, and it felt it necessary yesterday to move in senior executive support to the ailing Exchange.

Recent changes to the rules governing share trading across the European Union have given a boost to rivals of the London exchange, such as Paris and Frankfurt. There is deep concern that if the London Stock Exchange lacks a coherent strategy, supported by its major users, its position as the world's third-largest



Ecological beacon... Lighthouse keepers Dave Appleby and Dave McGovern wait for a helicopter to lift them off the Hanois lighthouse in Guernsey. The lighthouse is the first in the British Isles to be fully automated by solar energy

## Brewer seeks to control the parts other sponsors cannot reach

**Michael Ellison**

**W**HEN Heineken wanted the perfect matchmaker for its lager and a youthful new market, it could hardly have done better than go to the television company which brought you The Big Breakfast and The Word (proprietor, Bob Geldof).

Meetings were convened, deals done, and the beer that refreshes the parts others cannot reach became the sponsor of Hotel Babylon, the "young and exciting" guests-and-music-show which starts a 52-week run on ITV tonight.

But after seeing a recording of the first programme Heineken felt obliged to chip in a few observations along with its contribution of at least £100,000.

For one thing, there wasn't enough beer on the screen. "More evidence of beer is not just requested, but needed," Justus Kos, handling the sponsorship for Heineken, told the television production company in a fax.

"Less men drinking wine, preferably — masculine drinks like beer, whisky, long drinks," Mr Kos suggested.

Care had to be taken over who was allowed into the studio. "The audience should be aspirational but not too much on the edge." And one final thing: "There was a too-high proportion of negroes."

Mr Kos was unable to elaborate yesterday because he was in "a big meeting". But Karel Vuursteijn, Heineken's chief executive officer, said: "It should never have been written. I'm shocked since it's totally against everything Heineken stands for. I assure you that proper steps will be taken to prevent a recurrence."

When Heineken saw a Hotel Babylon pilot 12 months ago it asked for a more cosmopolitan, less pasty-faced British studio audience for a programme which will also be shown in Italy, Germany, the Netherlands and Ireland.

"The audience for tonight's show is about 90 per cent black," said Waheed Ali, managing director of its makers, Planet 24. "You take the people who turn up, we don't even think about it."

"But it's completely unfair to judge Heineken on the basis of that fax. I wouldn't work with a racist company. Wait till you see the programme, I'm surprised that's all they complained about."

# Ministers seek waiting list coup after blitz on NHS operation delays

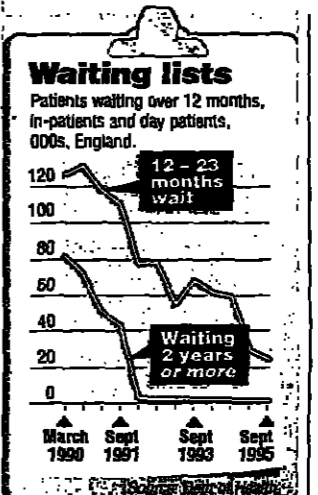
David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

**W**AITING lists for some hospital operations are being wiped out in parts of Britain as health authorities try to clear queues before the general election. Ministers are confident they will be able to declare, possibly as soon as this spring, that no patient in England need wait more than a year for treatment of any kind on the National Health Service.

No formal target of a maximum 12-month wait has been set. However, all health regions are working feverishly to clear their lists of patients who have been queuing longer, if necessary by sending them to private hospitals.

As a result of the drive, waiting lists for certain operations in certain areas have in effect been cleared altogether — with some experts predicting that such lists will soon be a thing of the past.

Mike Marchmont, who oversees waiting lists in the West Midlands, said yesterday: "There is no reason why there should be waiting lists in the NHS by the year 2000. We are absolutely clear on that."



the South and West had very few.

In Anglia and Oxford, which had 2.7 per cent waiting more than a year, extra operating sessions on weekdays and Saturdays have been introduced in Bedfordshire, a ward has been reopened at Ipswich hospital and extra cash has been granted to the Milton Keynes and South Buckinghamshire districts to find solutions — including using the private sector.

In South Thames, which had 4.7 per cent, the region has established a "waiting list task force" which is concentrating on problems in Brighton, Guildford and at Ashford hospital in Middlesex.

North Thames presents the Government's main headache. Last September more than 11,000 patients — 6.8 per cent of its total waiting list — had been queuing longer than a year. Alone among the regions, it is reluctant to commit itself to achieving a 12-month target by the end of March.

A North Thames spokesman said: "We have asked the district health authorities to draw up action plans to move

# Why Does Your Memory Fail You?



**A WORLD-FAMOUS** memory expert, who has trained industrialists, trades unionists, businessmen, professional men, salesmen, housewives and students to improve their memories, once said:

"Many people are embarrassed by a poor memory, and find difficulty in concentrating, whilst others realise that they lose business, academic and social opportunities not only because they cannot remember accurately everything they see, hear or read, but also because they cannot think or express their thoughts clearly, logically and concisely. Some seek advice, but many do not, mainly because they believe their memories cannot be improved."

**Simple Technique**

And yet, he went on to explain, he has devised a simple technique which can improve even the poorest memory. What's more, it can even work like magic to give you added poise, self-confidence and greater personal effectiveness. Everyone owes it to himself to find out more about this method.

**Rapid Results**

According to this remarkable man, anyone — regardless of his present skill — could, in just 20 minutes a day, improve his memory and concentration to a remarkable degree. For example, you need never forget another appointment — ever! You could learn names, faces, facts, figures and foreign languages faster than you ever thought possible. You may be able to imprint whole books on your memory after a single reading. You could be more successful in your studies and examinations. At parties and dinners you may never again be at a loss for appropriate words or entertaining stories. In fact, you could even be more poised and self-confident in everything you say and do.

**Free**

To acquaint all readers of The Guardian with the easy-to-follow rules for developing skill in remembering, we, the publishers, have printed full details of this interesting self-training method in a fascinating book, "Adventures in Memory", sent free on request. No obligation. No salesman will call. Just fill in and return the coupon on Page 6 (you don't even need to stamp your envelope), or write to: Memory and Concentration Studies (Dept. MCM36), FREEPOST 198, Manchester M60 3DL.

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Sketch

On the scent of a roll-over bundle



Lawrence Donegan

“WHAT is that smell?” The woman from Camelot, resident in a canary yellow jacket and television smile which insisted “this is all about caring causes”, could contain herself no longer.

“Cash,” she said excitedly. “It’s the smell of money. Sixty million in used notes, isn’t it lovely?”

Actually, £50 million in used £10, £20 and £50 notes smells anything but lovely. It stinks, like a bag of dirty washing or a bucket of wet paper mâché.

It looks a bit more impressive, mind you, which is no doubt why Camelot, the company which operates the National Lottery, brought a handful of journalists and photographers to an anonymous office building in North London yesterday morning for a quick peek.

Before taking us downstairs, a spokeswoman warned us all that there were two stars on show. “Anthea Turner is here with her agent — he says what she can and can’t do.”

Anthea, according to the spokeswoman, had initially declined to sit on the bundle of cash. The tension mounted as we were led through two great green steel doors, a praetorian guard of security men and grey-faced bank workers sullenly fingering bundles of notes.

At last, there she was: 13ft 6ins wide, 5ft 4ins high and 3ft 4ins deep, with a cardboard National Lottery logo stuck carelessly on her side. No, not Anthea. She, according to fashion observers, had a vision in an orange crushed velvet suit.

She disappeared before we arrived but not before putting aside her principles (what a professional) and agreeing to sit on the cash for the photographers.

For those who’ve been to Mars for their Christmas hols and came back last night, the rest of us are in the terminal stages of NLF (National Lottery Fever) due to the onset of a double roll-over jackpot of at least £35 million.

Northern bishops are foaming at the mouth with indignation, condemning Aussies who come down with Acute Syndication Syndrome.

National Heritage Secretary Virginia Bottomley has been behaving like, well, like Virginia Bottomley.

Nine out of 10 people are likely to play and my sympathies are with them, she bemusingly said on yesterday morning’s Today programme. (Keep buying the tickets, Ginny.)

If she has finally gone mad, who can blame her? Which of us has not stared dreamily through a filthy office window on to Nirvana in the last few days?

NLF is a terrible illness but by far the worst strain is that suffered by Camelot employees, who have all signed employment contracts denying them the right to buy a ticket.

Scratch any one of them, poor souls, and they start spouting statistics like some deluded Dalek.

“One and a half million, rollover, 50 million, 35, 23.5, 55 per cent, 133, exterminate, blah, blah, 3.8 billion, exterminate...”

Saddest of all, they will tell anyone who is prepared to listen that Saturday night’s draw (BSC, 7.50pm, as if we didn’t know) has “absolutely nothing to do with greed and everything to do with having fun and promoting good causes”.

Over the spokeswoman’s shoulder, I swear I heard the £0 million quid sniggering at that one.

Letters, page 8



A policeman passes flowers on to Ian Erskine, twin brother of the youth killed when he went to his father's aid in a street row PHOTOGRAPH CHARLOTTE NEWTON

Youth beaten to death on mean streets of the ‘other’ Stratford



Anthony Erskine: ‘A kind and gentle brother’

Woodlands Road after going to help his father, who was involved in a row with youths. For residents of this post-war council estate it was a tragedy waiting to happen.

Anthony Erskine lived with his parents Harry and Dorothy, his brother Gary, sister Natalie and twin Ian in a two-storey, semi-detached house.

Depression scuppers trial

John Ezard on the illness that ended a blackmail case after 15 attempts to start it

OFFICIALLY, Michael Wolfe’s depression was “very unusual” and even unprecedented after it allowed him to walk free from the Old Bailey yesterday. But try telling that to the 1,500 members of Depressives Anonymous.

Mr Wolfe, an alleged blackmailer, got so clinically depressed every time he was due to go to court that 18 months of attempts to bring him to justice had to be abandoned, the court was told. His case was listed 15 times. Every time the threat of a hearing was lifted, Mr Wolfe’s depression lifted too.

NHS waiting reduced

Continued from page 1. Towards reducing 12-month waits by March 31, but it would be extremely difficult to achieve a target of clearing those waits.

A North West spokeswoman said: “A patient now need wait only a week or two in some cases.”

Advertisement for The Taming of the Shrew by William Shakespeare, performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company. Includes text: FINAL STRATFORD PERFORMANCES BEFORE TRANSFERRING TO NEWCASTLE, RSC ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY, and a photo of Josie Lawrence.

First night

Where familiarity breeds content

Andrew Clements

Lindsay Quartet Wignore Hall

DISTINGUISHED critic once suggested that performances and recordings of the supreme musical masterpieces should be rationed, so their unique qualities might be preserved.

comprehensively and refuses to impose a glib stereotype on the music for cosmetic effect. Lindsay to the Lindsay is not always a comfortable experience — there are surface imperfections in their playing — but the honesty and musical sense are never in doubt.

Their project includes not just the 16 quartets but an extra work, the piece that opened this first concert. The Quartet in F major, with the catalogue number of H64, is Beethoven’s own arrangement of his F major Piano Sonata Op 14 no 1. It is a seamless piece of retelling, in which the translations from keyboard figuration to string articulation have been joined invisibly. It was deftly played, but the response was not quite as fresh and immediately inventive as it might be.

Police seek champagne clue in Celine case

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

RARE bottle of champagne could be a vital clue in the hunt for the killer of the French student Celine Figard, the detective leading the investigation said yesterday.

hampering his inquiry. Detective Chief Superintendent John McCammond told journalists in Worcester that Miss Figard had the Pascal Chretien champagne in her luggage when she was seen boarding a white Mercedes lorry at Chiswick service station in Berkshire on December 19. Her body was found in a layby near Worcester on December 23.

Music, G2, pages 9-9

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# Blair pledge of free trade and low tax

Michael White and Will Hutton

**T**ONY BLAIR will today tell the captains of the Japanese industry that the only way Britain can fulfil John Major's ambition to become the enterprise capital of Europe is by first modernising the country's educational system to make it the knowledge capital of Europe.

In a speech in Tokyo, the Labour leader will also seek to reassure potential Asian investors in Britain that a Blair-led government will be committed to free trade, global markets, competitive tax rates and tight financial disciplines.

But Mr Blair will also use his address to the Keidanren — the Japanese equivalent of the CBI — to launch the next phase of his modernisation project. It casts New Labour as the champion of a socially cohesive, high-productivity "stakeholder" economy and society, distancing Mr Blair yet further from traditional socialism while outflanking Conservative advocacy of free markets and unavoidable change.

The dual commitment to an enterprise economy coupled with educational opportunity and social justice for those at the bottom of society — who are better educated and integrated in Japan than in Britain, Mr Blair suggested — drew savage attacks from ministers in London last night even before it was delivered.

Despite Mr Blair's commitment not to repeal the bulk of Tory trade union legislation, the Trade Secretary, Ian Lang, argued that his Far Eastern trip, coupled with Gordon Brown's visit to the US this week, would "jeopardise our immensely successful record in attracting inward investment" by raising the spectre of higher taxes, constitutional chaos and the European social charter.

In fact, Mr Blair is seeking to sell a more subtle message to the so-called tiger economies of South and East Asia, whose commitment to social cohesion may make them more susceptible to Labour's message than ministers realise.

On education, he will invoke the slogan "knowledge, infrastructure, technology" to extol lifelong access to education, the harnessing of new technologies, and a broader,

more creative approach. "A learning society, a country of innovative people is not a nation of automatons," he will say.

In Singapore on Monday, as well as in Tokyo, Mr Blair will stress that Labour aims to produce a high trust, creative labour force and company sector in order to match the dynamism of Asian capitalism. That would imply changes in company law to promote more "stakeholding" — employee and citizen participation — along with the cultivation of long-term commitments by financial institutions and world-class levels of education and training.

He will tell the Keidanren meeting that Labour not only accepts the policy implications of globalisation — "I reject protectionism as wrong and impractical" — but intends to turn it to Britain's advantage. "Britain offers much: a workforce capable of adaptability and skill, access to the EU's single market, the English language which we share with your largest trading partner, the US, and an attractive legal and commercial system."

"Under Labour, I believe it would offer more; a better educated, more skilled workforce, better infrastructure, a stronger, more positive voice at the EU negotiating table and a macro-economy more conducive to sustained investment," he will pledge.

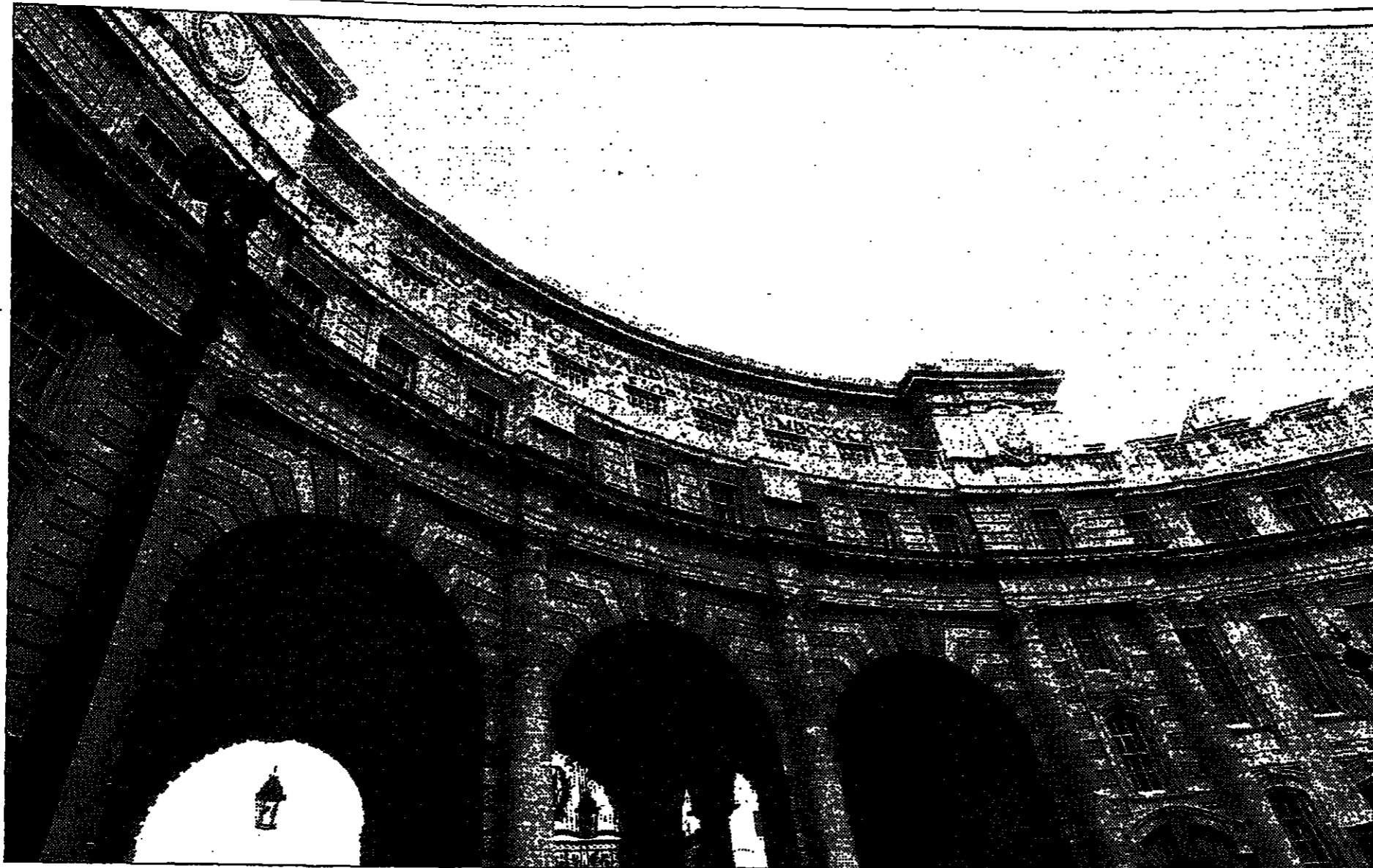
The speech also contains significant promises on tax regimes which will anger Tory ministers and leaving MPs. "Tax rates need to be internationally, as well as nationally, competitive," Mr Blair will concede.

However, his message also contains a crucial acceptance that "with globalisation comes its offspring — insecurity" which is social and moral as well as economic.

"I have argued that, in social terms, we need a new social contract between society and individual, in which rights and responsibilities are more closely defined, in which we grant each citizen a stake in our society, but demand from each clear responsibilities in return."

"I would apply the same concept of a contract to the building of a strong economy. The successful form today works through partnership," Mr Blair will say.

Leader comment, page 8; *Beal Littlejohn*, page 9



Admiralty Arch, which straddles the Trafalgar Square entrance to the Mall in London. The monument could be bought by Rupert Murdoch or McDonald's. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK MARTIN

## Admiralty Arch sale spurs sea lords' fury

**Sellenhoff**  
Estate Agents

**Admiralty Arch, Trafalgar Square, central London**

This stunning Edwardian property of 135,000 square feet (including basements), is centrally situated among London's premier shopping venues, cinemas and theatres. Close to the underground, it offers excellent views of the National Gallery and along the Mall (where you will find the neighbours discreet and charming). Boasting superior facilities it was built in 1910 and has been very carefully maintained by the current owners who are reluctantly selling due to straightened financial circumstances. One sitting tenant, the First Sea Lord.

View by appointment (and security clearance) only.

**£9.1 million (with garage)**

**David Fabhall**

**O**NE of London's foremost landmarks, the Admiralty Arch which straddles the Mall leading to Buckingham Palace, could be sold as anything from an hotel to an art gallery, Ministry of Defence estate agents Knight Frank and Rutley confirmed yesterday.

But rumours that "Old Admiralty", the 18th-century Whitehall building where Nelson's body awaited burial, might go the same way, were denied by the MoD.

Admiralty Arch was built in 1910 as a memorial to Queen Victoria. Until last year it was used as offices by the Royal Navy and to provide a flat — in the former servants' accommodation on the top floor — for

the First Sea Lord. The first to use the original, more opulent accommodation was the late Earl Mountbatten's father.

The current occupant, Admiral Sir Jock Slater, is among those who have been pressing for Old Admiralty's historic rooms to be preserved.

One of his predecessors, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Nelson, said yesterday that the historic boardroom in Old Admiralty should be preserved for the navy.

Speaking for an earlier generation, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, said Admiralty Arch and Old Admiralty were intrinsic parts of Britain's maritime heritage, something he would have thought even "a little creep like Portillo" [the Defence Secretary] would understand.

The arch will "probably be bought by Murdoch, or

McDonalds, or somebody like that", he said.

An MoD spokesman said the Old Admiralty building, used mostly by the Foreign Office, would remain in Government hands. And, in particular, it was expected that the Admiralty would continue to use the oak-paneled boardroom.

It has a full-length portrait of Nelson and a chart of the semaphore system by which messages could be sent to Portsmouth in 11 minutes.

Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, said the future of Admiralty Arch was in the hands of Department of the Environment's Property Holdings agency. He said government use had not been ruled out and, whatever happened, ministers would give full weight to its "important historical significance, its value to the heri-

tage of London, and its prominent position on the processional route through the capital".

The estate agents Knight Frank and Rutley are to prepare an "options analysis". The options include office use, conversion into flats, and institutional use as a gallery or a museum, the agents said yesterday.

Conversion into a hotel was also a possibility. The private sector might be involved in some sort of "private finance initiative", but this would not necessarily rule out continued occupation by civil servants.

Disposal of the triumphal arch, built to a design by Sir Aston Webb, is part of a comprehensive MoD programme to reduce its accommodation in central London to two buildings, the main block in Horseguards Avenue and the old War Office opposite.

## Bugging row erupts in S Africa

### Police chief claims intelligence agency is spying on top officers

**David Bensusford in Johannesburg**

**S**OUTH AFRICA'S police chief claimed yesterday that spies were snooping on his men in a bugging row that has drawn in the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) and Thabo Mbeki, the country's deputy president.

He has summoned the intelligence agencies and cabinet ministers with responsibility for the country's spies to an emergency meeting next week to discuss the "disturbing" allegations.

The meeting was called after George Fivaz, the police commissioner, said a listening device had been discovered in the office of one of his provincial commanders and on the home telephone of a key official in the force.

Even more startling was his allegation that "former hit-squad commander Dirk Coetzee stated to a police officer that he was tasked by the NIA to spy on me and other members of the police top structure".

The NIA in a statement said Mr Coetzee, an apartheid-era security policeman who defected to the African National Congress (ANC) and now works for the NIA, "has never received instructions by the NIA to this effect".

Sizakale Sigazabe, director-general of the NIA, and Joe Nhlahla, the deputy minister with responsibility for intelligence, said in a joint statement that the allegations were "unfounded, nonsensical and mischief-making".

Mr Coetzee denied any involvement. "I am not involved in any investigation on police top structures. I was not requested by the agency to do any investigation of whatever kind of the police or any individual," he told state-owned television. "I have

never been involved in bugging offices or bugging phones in my whole life. This is another attempt to discredit me."

According to the police commissioner, Mr Coetzee's disclosure that the NIA was targeting the police was made to a police officer investigating an apartheid-era political killing of a civil rights lawyer.

"I recently instructed that



Dirk Coetzee: former hit-squad commander

the murder of anti-apartheid activist Griffith Mxenge be re-opened after Mxenge's brother demanded to know why nothing was being done about Dirk Coetzee who had publicly confessed to the killing. An investigating officer was also sent to Coetzee who then said to the officer that he had been tasked with investigating me and other top police officers."

Mr Fivaz confirmed that — in addition to the two bugs which had been found — some provincial police commissioners had "reported surveillance by unknown agents".

Reports of in-fighting within the security services and, in particular, the intelligence agencies — the NIA and the South African Secret Service (SASS) — have been circulating for some time. Distrust has been almost publicly confessed to the killing. An investigating officer was also sent to Coetzee who then said to the officer that he had been tasked with investigating me and other top police officers."

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## Privatisation vouchers? That'll do nicely, say Polish prostitutes

**James Meek in Moscow**

**W**ITH sub-zero temperatures making the streets of Eastern Europe's capitals ever harsher places to stand around all night waiting for clients, it is not surprising that the prostitutes of at least one city are seeking a long-term return from their short-term engagements with customers.

According to Polish state television, some call girls in Warsaw are accepting privatisation vouchers in lieu of cash. The vouchers give their

owners a stake in Poland's privatisation process.

"We just want to make money and the vouchers are a good investment," one of the women told the news programme.

If the sexual services index is any indicator of the success of the voucher programme, it is doing well. Shortly before the New Year a voucher bought a quarter of an hour with a woman. This has now shot up to 30 minutes.

On proof of Polish citizenship a voucher can be bought for 20 zlotys, about £5. But they are worth nearly three

times as much on the grey market.

Poles have always seemed to embrace capitalist values with the greatest enthusiasm of all East Europeans, but the status of the new privatisation voucher sets a record for liquidity of financial instruments.

Russia's voucher privatisation scheme flared in and out of existence in 1994. Unlike the Polish system, Russian vouchers were distributed free to all citizens.

At their peak, the Russian vouchers were being traded for more than the Polish ones

are worth now. But Moscow is more expensive and more conservative financially than Warsaw and it would have been hard to imagine a representative of a Muscovite escort agency bothering to take off her fur coat on the promise of attractive long-term investment opportunities in Russian industry.

However, the many street kiosks dealing in vouchers and vodka suggested that at the time a significant number of Russians chose to invest in a more secure and reliable liquid asset with known and tested qualities.

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**Las Vegas is a Disneyland in the desert, a place for pensioners, young marrieds and 12-year-olds with money belts. People look as glamorous as a National Express coach party to Bournemouth. They play at fruit machines on fixed budgets, are joined at the shoulder to their camcorders. It is not Gomorrah, but a cross between the Universal Studios Tour and Brent Cross.**

Review cover story



Shortage feared as recruitment drops sharply

# Teacher training 'to rise by 50pc'

Donald MacLeod  
Education Correspondent

THE Government is to increase teacher training by half, to avoid a serious shortage as fewer people join the profession and thousands retire early.

Anthea Millett, chief executive of the Teacher Training Agency, will today tell local authority leaders of plans to increase training places from 20,000 to 30,000 over the next five years.

Her admission that the target was "challenging" comes at an embarrassing moment for ministers, who are trying to hold the line on teachers' pay, a key factor in promoting the image of the profession. The School Teachers' Review Body is due to report on pay in the next few weeks, and teachers are pressing for the Government to fund any rise in full.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said that without additional funding schools would have to make more staff redundant, making the "crisis" worse.

Applications for teacher training have dropped by 25 per cent for science and 22 per cent in maths this year.

"The expansion needed in teacher training places — 50

per cent in secondary and 34 per cent in primary over the next five years — will be very challenging but it would be folly to reduce the standards of entry to the teaching profession," Ms Millett said.

She denied claims by both primary and secondary head teachers that there was already a shortage, but admitted there were local shortages in some subjects, such as maths and science. But recruitment would have to be boosted to prevent a shortage in two years' time.

The 25 per cent dropout rate among trainee teachers would have to be tackled, and it might be necessary to restrict early retirement to avoid difficulties by the end of the century, she said.

A recent survey found half of the teachers who lost their jobs last year took early retirement. A previous teacher shortage, in the late 1980s, disappeared with the recession. Ms Millett said an upturn in alternative job opportunities could lead to problems in the inner cities, and the agency wanted to see more training centred there.

It is not known how many teachers who have left the profession can be attracted back, but these are likely to be fewer in an economic upturn. The agency believes there may be 300,000 inactive teachers.

Mr Hart said both ministers and opposition spokesmen underestimated the problem. "I don't think they understand the enormity of the teacher recruitment crisis we are facing," he said. The proposed increases in training places would merely keep pace with the rise in pupil numbers, and do nothing to reduce class sizes.

"It is a pay issue," said Mr Hart, who is calling on the opposition parties to unite to force the Government to fund teachers' pay fully.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, said constant criticism of teachers made the position worse. "Who wants to join the ranks of the incompetents? All those attacks on teachers turn people off and lead to a bigger shortage," he said.

A serious split over pay emerged among teachers yesterday, as one union accused head teachers of abusing public money by giving themselves rises they denied to their staff. The Association of Teachers and Lecturers has written to the Nolan committee on standards in public life, urging it to investigate. Last year, 23 per cent of head teachers were awarded extra rises by governors, compared with only 5 per cent of classroom teachers.

# Ofsted chief 'politically biased' on council role

Donald MacLeod

FURIOUS local authorities will decide next week whether to censure the chief inspector of schools for making "party political" statements.

Both Conservative and Labour members of the Council of Local Education Authorities were angered by comments from Chris Woodhead, chief executive of the Office for Standards in Education, in a pamphlet published by a right-wing think tank.

He questioned the need for local education authorities and said schools were too dependent on town halls. His well-publicised claim that there are 15,000 incompetent teachers in schools has infuriated many teachers who remain suspicious of Ofsted's methods and approach.

Graham Lane, education chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said that next week's CLEA meeting would discuss whether Mr



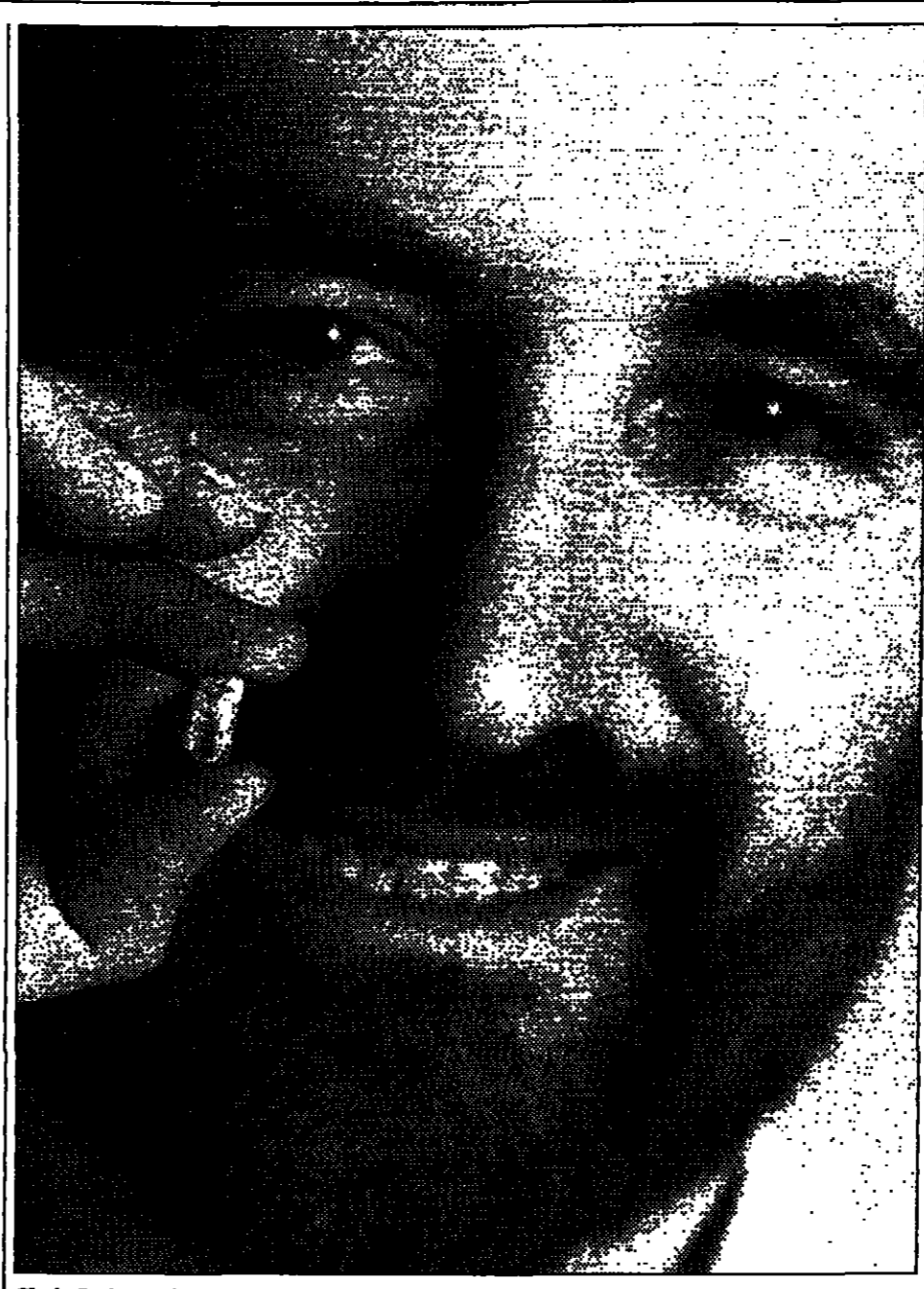
Chris Woodhead... 'schools too dependent on town halls'

the issue about a civil servant getting allied to politics and a certain party — more than that, the politics are the Prime Minister's rather than Gillian Shephard's (Education and Employment Secretary).

Mr Woodhead denied that his pamphlet, *A Question of Standards for the Politicians*, was party political. "Controversial it may be... My aim throughout is to identify the issues and explore the arguments, not to plump for particular solutions."

Local authorities, however, reacted to a call by the National Union of Teachers to replace Ofsted with a system of school inspections by local authorities. Mr Lane said: "I do not want debate about the future of Ofsted to be hijacked by the future of Mr Woodhead."

Doug McAvo, NUT general secretary, said Ofsted walked into schools and out without offering advice and help which local authorities could provide. A national body like the Audit Commission should oversee authorities.



Chris Stringer displays one of the teeth found at Boxgrove



An impression of how Boxgrove man may have looked

Expert gets his teeth into Boxgrove man

BOXGROVE man — represented by two 500,000-year-old teeth and part of a shinbone found in a Sussex quarry — was definitely right-handed, writes Tim Radford.

There are microscopic cut marks running across the teeth, and Chris Stringer, head of human origins research at the Natural History Museum, where a small Boxgrove exhibition was opened yesterday, said: "He was holding something in his jaws, and cutting down with his right hand across the teeth: it could be meat. It could be vegetable material."

Archaeologists from University College, London, have collected more than 150 flint tools, and evidence of systematic butchery of rhino, red deer, horses and other large animals at what must have been a spring on a beach in Sussex in a warm spell between ice ages.

An Horizon programme will tell the story on BBC2 on Monday night.

# News in brief

## New water threat in the North

THE threat of water restrictions returned to the North yesterday in the wake of pipe bursts and leaks which sent consumption higher than last summer's peak. North West Water, which has deployed tankers in Wigan, Trafford and Bury, monitored a record flow of 640 million gallons through its network compared to the daily average of 510 million.

The company is preparing applications to the Department of the Environment for renewed drought orders, with average rainfall for December and January well below average. The situation in Yorkshire also remains finely balanced and a line of pumping terminals has been installed along the M63 at Scammonden reservoir, which is 20 per cent below its full capacity.

All but a few of the 8,000 homes in England which had been without water were reconnected yesterday, with the last pockets mostly in the North-east. Disruption in Scotland is expected to last into next week. — Martin Wainwright

## Road protesters' victory

PROTESTERS against the Newbury bypass secured a temporary victory yesterday when the High Court delayed a decision until January 18 on whether to award a possession order to the Department of Transport to clear two sites at Elmors Woods and the River Kennet canal. If the department succeeds, it would be able to start evicting protesters, who have set up camps on the two sites.

The department wants to clear the sites in preparation for the building of the bypass later this year. The court gave Friends of the Earth a further fortnight to prepare its case. The organisation said: "We believe we can win the argument." — Keith Harper

## Council acts on Hooch

BOLTON council has become the first local authority in Britain to ban advertisements for alcoholic soft drinks in response to growing concern that they deliberately encourage under-age drinking. Alcoholic lemonade, cola and ginger beer drinks, many of them stronger than beer, have been a huge hit with club-goers since their launch earlier this year.

Two million cans or bottles of Hoopers Hooch, the 4.7 per cent alcohol lemonade and ginger beer, made by Bass, are sold each week. Up to 25 brands are believed to be on the market, backed up by large advertising campaigns. The council has told brewers and advertising agencies that advertisements will no longer be accepted for council-owned hoardings. — Stuart Millar

## Siamese twin dies

THE surviving Siamese twin separated at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London, in November has died, the hospital said yesterday. Hussain Ammar, from Kuwait, died on January 1 as a result of pneumonia and an infection of the covering of his lungs.

The twins were separated on November 15 but Hussain's brother did not survive the operation. The twins were joined from the breastbone to the navel and their hearts and livers were fused. — Chris Mihill

## Grecian loses bail fight

PAUL GRECIAN, the former arms dealer who first alerted the intelligence agencies to the Iraqi supergun, will remain in a South African jail until an American request for his extradition is heard later this month. The Johannesburg supreme court rejected Mr Grecian's application for bail after the South African authorities suggested that he could not be trusted to remain in the country.

He was arrested on an Interpol warrant a month ago as he was about to join his South African fiancée for a Christmas holiday. The US authorities allege he was involved in a bank fraud relating to an arms-to-Iraq deal for which he was convicted in Britain in 1992. The conviction was quashed in the Appeal Court in November. — Richard Norton-Taylor

## Doctors find ME hope

PATIENTS suffering from ME — chronic fatigue syndrome — improve more quickly if they are given psychological treatment in addition to standard medical care, researchers say today in the British Medical Journal.

Three-quarters of patients given psychological therapy returned to normal functioning within a year, compared to a quarter who only received medical care, according to psychiatrists and psychologists from Warneford Hospital and the John Radcliffe Hospital, in Oxford. — Chris Mihill

## RAF man backs Gulf tactics

FLIGHT Lieutenant John Nichol (right), one of the Tornados air crew shot down and captured during low-level attacks in the Gulf war, yesterday rejected criticism of the RAF's tactics, suggesting even more aircraft might have been lost at higher altitudes.

"We were attacking the most heavily defended [Iraqi] airfields, and the JP 233 runway denial weapon was the only weapon we had," he said at a review of a BBC TV series on the 1991 war, beginning on Sunday. "It has to be released at low level, and that is what we were trained to do."

General Sir Peter de la Billiere, British commander in the Gulf, says the RAF should have been quicker to switch to medium-altitude attacks.



Stores warned, health and wages linked, and refugees now model citizens, reports Paul Brown at geographers' conference

# Supermarkets 'put British fruit growers at risk'

SUPERMARKETS are squeezing British fruit and vegetable growers out of business by buying produce from the Continent, particularly France, the annual conference of the Royal Geographical Society in Glasgow was told yesterday.

Bainstrey and Tesco, named as the main culprits, were accused of abusing their powerful position and bullying the remaining horticultural industry into discarding local varieties and growing uniform produce.

Caroline Dumontell, from the science policy research unit at Sussex university,

said that British growers were further disadvantaged because they were not offered a firm contract for their produce.

If supermarkets found that they had ordered too much, they honoured deals with continental suppliers and cancelled their British orders at the last moment, leaving producers to sell at a discount to local markets or wholesalers.

The importing policy by the supermarkets meant the acreage of fruit and vegetables under cultivation in Britain had shrunk by 16 per cent between 1987 and 1993, and 20

per cent of growers had gone out of business. There were now 11,000 growers, but only 2,000 of them were regarded as very profitable, while the rest were struggling to survive. Fourteen per cent of apple orchards had disappeared in the last year, even though English apples were the same quality as the French.

The domination of supermarkets meant they took 60 per cent of the retail market, which was expected to grow to 80 per cent in the next four years. The number of independent grocers had dropped from 55,000 20 years ago to

fewer than 20,000. For the growers this meant fewer wholesale markets — these had fallen from 150 main wholesalers to 37 in 1995.

Ms Dumontell said the demands of supermarkets meant that produce was grown as if in a factory. Local varieties with their extra taste and flavour could not find a market.

Produce was grown for uniformity and length of shelf life. A constant supply of thousands of items of uniform vegetables and fruit were required.

Research showed that because the French were orga-

nised into co-operatives with a single marketing operation, then supermarkets preferred to deal with them.

This meant that even if there were British growers capable of satisfying the demand for strawberries, the supermarkets would buy from the French.

Apart from the damage to the British economy of large unnecessary imports, there was no gain for the British consumer since there was no evidence of reduced prices.

"The consumer and the growers are getting a bad deal. There is increasing evidence that the poor who most

need to eat fresh fruit and vegetables cannot afford to buy it because of supermarket prices. What the rest of us are getting is a loss of variety and diversity from factory farming methods," said Ms Dumontell.

A spokeswoman for Sainsbury said that the accusations may have had some truth in them in the past but not now. The company had just concluded a supply contract with an apple orchard in Kent and four further contracts with vegetable growers.

"We are doing our best to develop markets for British products," she said.

# Ugandan Asians 'have become UK paragons'

THE 29,500 Asians expelled by Uganda as destitute refugees in 1972 have progressed from "pariahs to paragons" in this country, researchers say.

They arrived with a £50 allowance from the Ugandan regime, and were sent to refugee camps, but 23 years later are model middle class citizens, mostly owning their own homes, Rina Valeny, of the immigration unit of the University of Wales in Cardiff, said.

The refugees were highly motivated and wished to regain the social status they had in Uganda. Many had been professionally qualified, but were prepared to take any job and pooled family resources to buy businesses.

Far more, proportionally, were now self-employed than among whites — 26 per cent compared with 16 per cent. They owned newspapers, petrol stations, import-export businesses and insurance.

Those who had become em-

ployees had also climbed in status, particularly women. In 1981 only 6 per cent of Ugandan Asian women were classed as managers. By 1991 it had risen to 24 per cent. For white women, the comparable figures were 21 per cent in 1981 and 25 per cent 10 years later. For men the figure of Ugandan Asian managers had gone up from 25 per cent to 37 per cent over the same decade, and white men from 28 per cent to 38 per cent.

Even where the refugees had not done particularly well they had set great store by educating their children, seeing qualifications as an insurance against insecurity. More than 50 per cent of children had become professionally qualified including many lawyers, doctors and dentists.

Ms Valeny said: "It is not a case of rags to riches, but rather to a comfortable middle class existence."

The government had intended to disperse them over Britain but most had settled in London and Leicester, where they remained.

# £100 pay rise for low paid can hold key to longer life

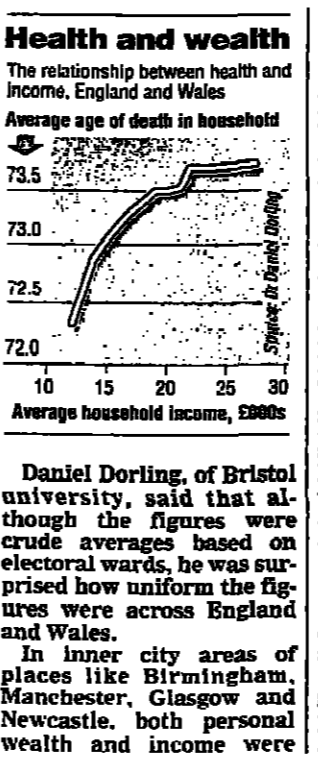
LOW-PAID worker can expect to gain an extra nine days of life every time he or she gets a pay rise of £100, say researchers.

Although the link between poverty and poor health is well established, researchers who surveyed 9,000 electoral wards in Britain were surprised at the direct relationship between small amounts of extra income and life expectancy.

However, even the richest person only lives an average 17 months longer than the poorest.

The greatest gain in life expectancy is up to £15,000. If your income went from nothing to £15,000 a year, you could expect to live an extra 100 days.

Getting a rise beyond £15,000 gives you only an extra four days for every £100 additional income. Beyond £21,000 a year, each £100 increase brings only eight hours longer on your life.



low, and life expectancy was shorter.

The exception to the income-equals-health rule was in areas like Cumbria, Lincolnshire and Northumbria. The statistics gave the impression that in these areas poor people lived longer than average, but in fact the local economy (house prices, etc) was such that they needed less money to live well.

The correlation between health and wages also applies to health and wealth. Capital measured by equity held in their homes is also linked to longer life. In some wards the average household wealth was less than £100. For every £100 extra wealth, people could expect to gain a day.

Again, once a certain level of wealth had been reached the increase in life expectancy fell off. For example, once someone was worth £60,000, they only gained three hours' life expectancy for every extra £100.

# Woman froze to death

THE BODY of a Surrey woman was found yesterday after she had vanished from a party near Chobham on a freezing night. She died from hypothermia, a post mortem examination revealed. Sharon Hammond, who would have been 39 on New Year's Eve, disappeared from a cousin's birthday celebration last Friday after shoes were taken from on a cricket pitch.

Her husband, Colin, aged 39, said that she had been in low spirits on the night and had suffered depression for the last five years. "She was in a very low mood. There had been no argument." — Owen Bowcott

# Vet's last note to ex-girlfriend

A VET gave himself a lethal injection after leaving a suicide note for his estranged girlfriend — wrapped up in a Christmas present addressed to her. The note from Ian Washbrooke, aged 37, was found by Lisa Dade when she opened the present two days after his death.

Mr Washbrooke killed himself by injecting up to 33 times the lethal quantity of barbiturates used to kill horses, an inquest in Bournemouth, Dorset, was told. He was found on his bed, on floor were strewn photographs of his former girlfriend. A verdict of suicide was recorded.

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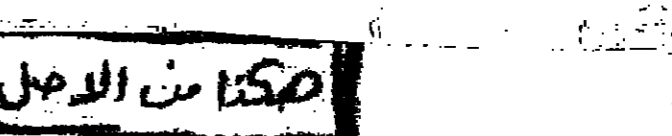
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سلاسل

Downing Street, Home and Foreign Office were urged to take action against dissident whose presence in Britain threatened key contracts

# Companies piled on pressure to halt damage to Saudi trade

Ian Black  
Diplomatic Editor

**M**OHAMMED al-Mas'ari, the Saudi dissident being expelled to Dominica, had become something of an obsession for the British government in recent months as concern mounted over damage to trade and diplomatic relations with the world's most powerful oil producer.

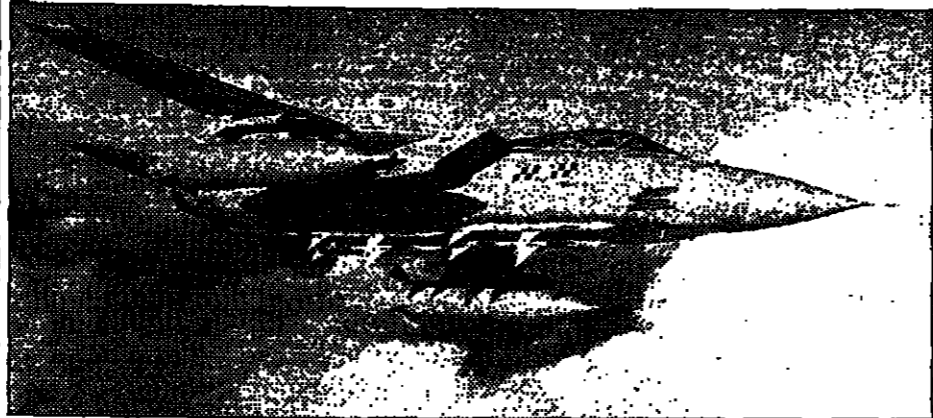
Leading arms and aerospace companies, including Vickers and BAE, urged Downing Street, the Home Office, and the Foreign Office to take action, with MPs warning of redundancies if key contracts were lost because of Saudi anger.

One influential industrialist said: "When people's constituency interests are threatened it is remarkable how quickly the moral argument disappears." Britain was the largest supplier of major weapons systems to Saudi Arabia from 1988 to 1994. Britain exported \$1.5 billion of goods to Saudi Arabia and sold \$580 million of weapons to the Middle East and North Africa. John Grunton, of the Middle East Association, said: "It is astonishing to say this is all about the arms trade."

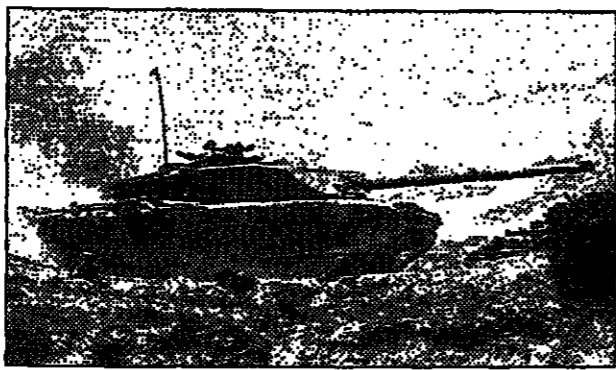
One exporter said: "Privately, a whole range of British businessmen will breathe a sigh of relief. They have been getting extremely anxious about the situation."

"But publicly people will feel very uncomfortable. It's a reflection on the UK's new world position. If you look at the trade statistics, the Middle East is one of the few areas where we've got a visible trade surplus. Britain has to balance political principle against external trade factors. By and large there's no alternative."

As Whitehall struggled to deal with the Mas'ari problem, it faced a clear choice between freedom of speech and



Supply line... Tornado fighters and Challenger tanks are among Britain's chief Saudi exports



'When people's constituency interests are threatened it is remarkable how quickly the moral argument disappears'

an unsentimental realpolitik that was bound to attract the condemnation of liberals and human rights activists.

Initially, the Foreign Office explored changing the asylum laws so that people seeking to stay in the UK would have to prove their presence was not detrimental to British interests. But this was deemed a legal minefield that could take years to cross.

Saudi Arabia itself lobbied long and hard, insisting it understood that British law and traditions were different from their own, but nevertheless clearly expecting some solution.

One regular visitor to Saudi Arabia said: "You've got to get inside their mind set. They don't understand how you can potentially damage your trade because of the

great liberal principles we all live by in this country."

According to one source, just before Christmas the British ambassador to Saudi Arabia, David Gore-Booth, was "wirebrushed" by the Saudi defence minister.

Prince Sultan, after earlier bruising encounters for Michael Heseltine, Douglas Hurd, and the present Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind. Threats had been coded and non-specific, with only one

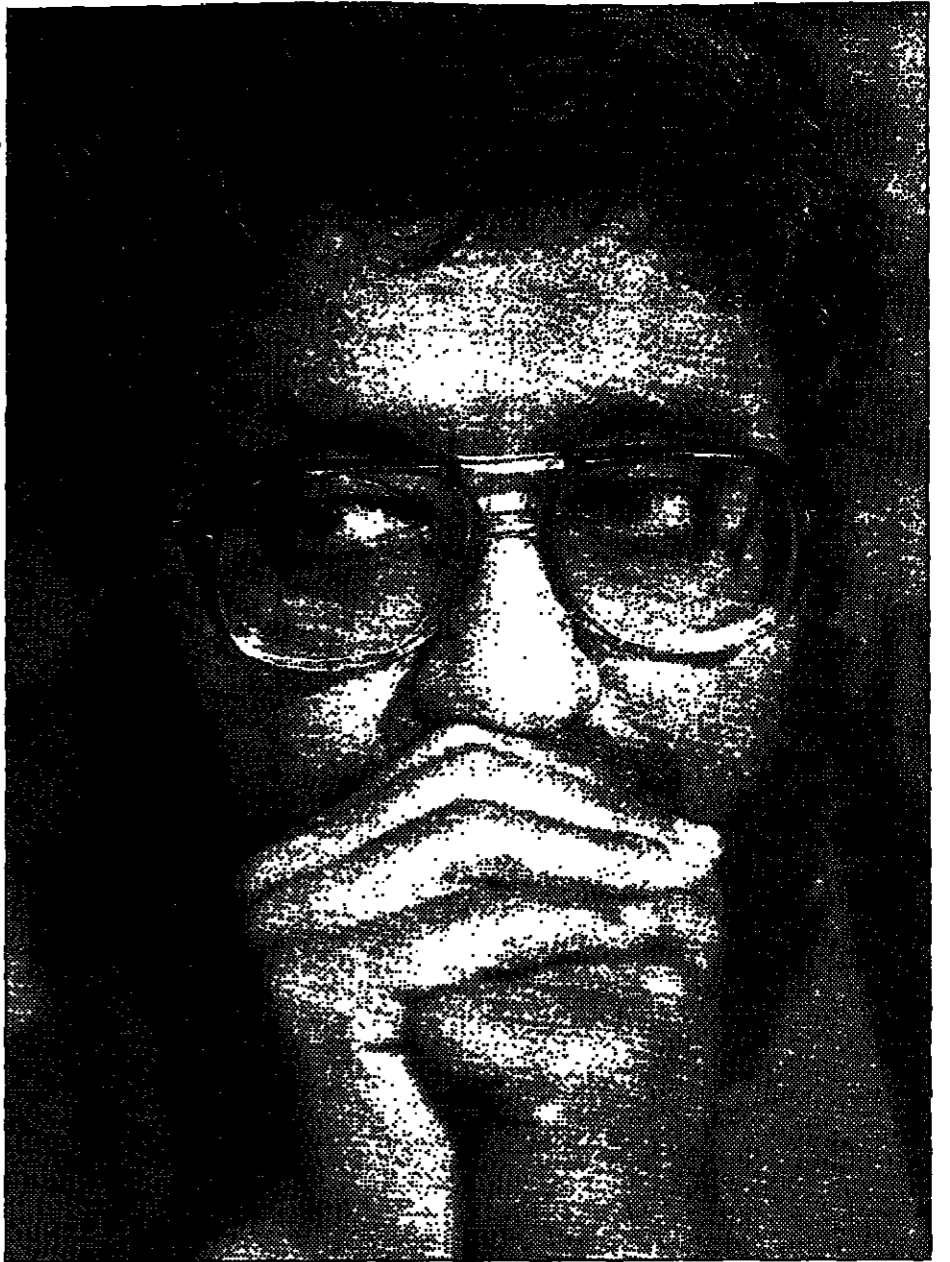
known case of a contract that should have been awarded to a British company — a planning consultant — going to a foreign competitor. Defence firms are especially worried about inroads by the French.

The Government had other considerations too. Since arriving here in 1984 Mr Mas'ari has become a beacon for a wider group of Islamic dissidents, giving London an unwelcome reputation as a centre for militants working against Middle Eastern regimes friendly to Britain.

His Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights began recently to publish a bulletin in conjunction with an Algerian exile group fighting the military regime there, giving flesh to the idea of a fundamentalist international. He also had plans to seek a licence for a TV station.

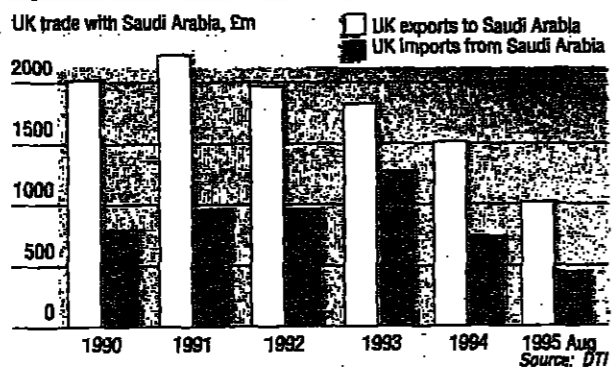
Saudi Arabia made no comment on the British move, but it and other Arab governments will be pleased with a decision they see as long overdue after repeated representations. Some will also see an opportunity for themselves.

The tiny Gulf state of Bahrain has protested strongly about the presence in Britain of several dissident clerics, while Tunisia complains repeatedly about Rashid Ghannouchi, the fundamentalist leader granted asylum here. Egypt is also lobbying hard over two militants of the outlawed Jihad movement who have been sentenced to death in absentia for involvement in terrorist activities.



Mohammed al-Mas'ari at a Commons press conference yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

## Balance of trade



## Asthma cases still increasing

Chris Millill  
Medical Correspondent

**A**STHMA cases are continuing to increase, with the number of children suffering symptoms having doubled between 1989 and 1994, researchers say today.

There have been suggestions that the reported rise in asthma cases has been falling off, and may have peaked in the 1980s, but doctors behind the study say this is not so.

Some unidentified common cause is probably responsible for the increase, along with that in other allergic illnesses such as eczema and hay fever. The researchers say this is unlikely to be air pollution, and may instead be a dietary deficiency of certain vitamins, such as vitamin C and beta-carotene.

Maeda Omran and George Russell, of the Royal Aberdeen children's hospital, analysed questionnaires from 4,034 children aged eight to 14 from 34 of the city's schools, asking about symptoms such as wheezing, shortness of breath, night coughs, and diagnosed cases of asthma, eczema, and hay fever.

The unit made similar surveys in 1981 and 1989, and found a substantial increase in allergic diseases over the 25-year period.

The new study, published in the British Medical Journal, shows the rise is continuing.

Between 1989 and 1994, the proportion of children with a reported diagnosis of asthma roughly doubled, from 10 per cent to 20 per cent. Cases of eczema rose from 12 per cent to nearly 18 per cent, and hay fever stayed the same, at around 12 per cent.

The researchers dispute recent suggestions that asthma and related wheezing illnesses reached a plateau in the 1980s.

"Our study, performed on children in the same classes of the same schools during the same month as the 1989 study suggest that, at least in Aberdeen, the prevalence of childhood wheezing illness is still increasing."

"Increased professional and public awareness of asthma might be responsible for some or even all of the increased diagnosis of asthma, but is unlikely to explain the increase in reported symptoms."

The doctors say their study was not designed to look for possible causes for the rise in numbers, but since they had also seen increases in cases in children in the Highlands "we find it difficult to believe that outdoor air pollution is a major factor."

They add: "We are inclined to support alternative hypotheses, such as dietary deficiency of antioxidants, or changes in indoor environment or lifestyle."

**Tony had brought along just the basic minimum of close personal advisers — yours truly, Jack Straw, Robin Cook and of course the much-loved John Prescott, to lend a hand with the luggage.**

Bel Littlejohn page 9

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News in brief

Corruption inquiry threat to SNCF chief

A CORRUPTION inquiry involving payments of at least \$212,000 is threatening Loik Le Floch-Prigent, who was appointed head of the SNCF French state railways only a fortnight ago to deal with the national strike.

Beijing warning to US

SINO-US relations got off to a rocky start this year when Beijing advised Washington not to issue a visa to the vice-president of Taiwan or to interfere in Beijing's interpretation of human rights.

Tanks buildup in Liberia

HUNDREDS of troops from the Ecomog African peacekeeping force massed with tanks on a road to western Liberia where 130 fellow peacekeepers are held by guerrillas, witnesses said yesterday.

Christopher to join talks

THE US secretary of state, Warren Christopher, was due to join closed-door talks between Israel and Syria last night, adding weight to reports that two weeks cooped up together in a remote Maryland resort has brought the two countries closer together.

One-time followers of the Bosnian Serb leader are joining calls for him to be tried as a war criminal

Karadzic - from saviour to scapegoat

Chris Hodges in Banja Luka

THE Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, is increasingly reviled and isolated among the one million Serbs in the region.

Sarajevo captives handed over

SARAJEVO Serbs released 16 Bosnian civilian hostages yesterday, under pressure from Nato and the United States to defuse the first confrontation between peacekeepers and the former warring parties.

methods used to achieve those goals

The Pale leadership has long relied on paramilitary groups, such as those under the control of the notorious commander Zeljko Raznatovic, known as Arkan, to expel and murder Croats and Muslims living in Serb-held areas.

will inherit power once Karadzic steps aside

Mr Karadzic's party was one of the first to call for rebellion against the Bosnian government at the start of the war. He led past efforts to reject peace plans and, as he was not indicted as a war criminal, he can stand for election.



Family portrait... A pre-war picture shows Irma Laplasse with her husband and children Fred and Eugenie at their Oostduinkerke home

Execution case stirs old furies

Efforts to rehabilitate a Nazi collaborator shot for betraying the wartime Resistance could start a flood of compensation claims, writes Stephen Bates in Brussels

A CASE arising out of the shooting of a Nazi collaborator 50 years ago is threatening to reopen deep divisions in Belgian society between Flemish nationalists who fought for Hitler and French-speaking Walloons who sided with the Allies.

soldiers were approaching the outskirts of the town, the Germans attacked the school, freed Fred Laplasse and his friends, and killed the young Resistance members.

They lie buried in the local cemetery, while Mr Laplasse still lives in the family farmhouse outside the town, shunned by many people. He has recently appeared in local papers giving a Nazi salute and claiming Hitler did not go far enough in exterminating the Jews.



Fred Laplasse... Appears in papers giving Nazi salute

The division was not clear-cut, for there were Flemings in the Resistance, including a couple of those killed at Oostduinkerke. But the Vlaams Blok has allowed itself to be associated with extremist neo-Nazi groups which flock every year to a gathering it holds at Diksmuide.

Blast ends a nuclear nightmare

The blowing up of a Ukrainian silo today lifts a post-Soviet missile threat, writes David Fairhall

THE Russian defence minister, General Pavel Grachev, will join his US counterpart, William Perry, at a remote Ukrainian missile site today to witness the destruction of a launch site whose nuclear missiles were once aimed at the United States.

with nuclear weapons from the debris of the former Soviet Union.

By geographical accident, Ukraine and Belarus found themselves inheriting a sizeable chunk of the former Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal. It included many of the "heavy" intercontinental missiles which particularly worried the Pentagon and some of the latest Blackjack Tu-160 bombers. But to everyone else's relief, all three states have opted for non-nuclear weapons status.

Advertisement for Direct Line mortgages. Title: 'Why transfer your mortgage to Direct Line? Your building society reveals all.' Includes a table comparing mortgage rates for Halifax, Woolwich, Nationwide, and Direct Line. Contact numbers for London, Manchester, and Glasgow are provided.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: 'سكنا من الامم'







## Giving in to blackmail

The handling of Mr al-Mas'ari has been craven

THERE IS NO mystery about the real reason for deporting the Saudi dissident Mohammed al-Mas'ari to Dominica instead of considering his application for asylum. He has not breached any condition for political refugee status. It is not suggested that he is breaking British law or promoting terrorism. No one has cast doubt on his claim to have a well-founded fear of persecution if he returns to Saudi Arabia. Indeed his application for asylum has not been examined at all: it has been refused "without substantive consideration of the claim."

The reason why Mr Mas'ari is being banished to a Caribbean Elba was set out with total clarity yesterday by the Home Office minister Ann Widdecombe in the following terms: "We have close trade relations with a friendly state (i.e. Saudi Arabia) which has been the subject of considerable criticism by Mr Mas'ari." Are Ms Widdecombe's listeners to recoil with shock and horror? So an applicant for British asylum has ventured to criticise this wholly undemocratic repressive state which has arrested hundreds for their political or religious activities and routinely inflicts cruel and inhuman punishment. How dare he! No, even Ms Widdecombe cannot expect such a response. There is no reason why applicants for asylum (or those granted such status) should refrain from political activity, so long as it is non-violent and is not illegal in Britain. Neither the 1951 UN convention nor the subsequent UNHCR guidance to states make any such stipulation. Nor can it be regarded as "self-serving" — a bogus performance to strengthen Mr Mas'ari's claim. He was jailed and tortured for political protest in Saudi Arabia and is continuing to protest in the same vein.

The answer, simply, is that the government is scared witless by the prospect of upsetting the Saudis. There was

some surprise yesterday that Ms Widdecombe should have confirmed this so openly, but her only alternative was to keep quiet. There was no other plausible reason for the Home Secretary's arbitrary act. Deporting Mr Mas'ari to a third country is not, as it happens, a breach of international law, though the practice has been expressly opposed in a recent document from the UNHCR. But the expected approach is for the host country to consider an application for asylum, and then either accept or reject it. Instead Britain has refused consideration while, illogically, finding another country which will not only receive Mr Mas'ari's application but has promised in advance to accept it. The result is that Britain looks ludicrous and craven at the same time.

The blatant admission of a political motive behind this decision may strengthen Mr Mas'ari's case for appeal or judicial review. The nature of Mr Mas'ari's views as an Islamist who advocates Shari'a law is beside the point — and not only because Saudi Arabia is already an Islamic state where the same law is arbitrarily applied. Asylum is not granted only to those whose views we applaud.

There remains the Government's appeal to self-interest of the narrowest kind. Protection of British jobs would be a more noble cause if it had been pursued elsewhere with equal enthusiasm to prevent the run-down of our manufacturing industry. Besides the linkage of trade and politics — normally opposed by the Government — creates a dangerous precedent. Britain will be seen as more open to blackmail by trading partners who object to political criticism — and there are plenty of them. Nor do massive arms sales to Saudi Arabia do anything to promote a wider stability. Surely the lesson of the Gulf War was that the region needs fewer guns, more democracy.

## The police need better protection

But is CS gas the answer? Rigorous trials are needed first

WHO would want to police our streets? Life has become ever more dangerous for officers on patrol. Few images have more graphically illustrated the dangers than the battered and bruised face of Birmingham police woman Vanessa Greening, who was knocked unconscious with iron bars by a gang of nine teenagers when she was called to investigate a burglary this week. It is not just women officers. Her male colleague needed six stitches to a deep cut on his left arm. Police claim 18,000 injuries were suffered by officers last year — in a force of only 125,000. Not all these injuries were inflicted by criminals. Some were caused by the mentally ill, left on the street to look after their own drug stabilisation programmes. If we want police officers to walk around and deal with unpredictable and violent people at close quarters, then there is a responsibility to provide them with the right tools. But are pepper or CS gas sprays the right tools?

Sir Ronald Hadfield, Chief Constable of West Midlands police, believes they are — particularly pepper sprays which disable people almost immediately. Sir Roger's anger is understandable. Four of his officers have been attacked by two separate gangs this week. The current technology used by the police is far from modern — batons go back to medieval times, even if the long-handled version is a new American import: handcuffs go back decades; ditto the gun. There are some obvious advantages to modern sprays: the speed

with which they work; the distance from the suspect from which they operate; the chance of disabling a suspect without the serious injury that batons or guns can produce.

So why hesitate? There are several reasons. Trials with CS sprays began last year but were halted when a police instructor needed hospital treatment for burns to his eyes after being sprayed by the gas. Pepper gas has even greater health hazards as even Ann Widdecombe, the robust Home Office minister has conceded. The police themselves were horrified by a pepper spray demonstration at a chief officers' conference two years ago when a volunteer officer acted as guinea pig and was put in a terrible state. Sprays will be one further step towards a more militaristic police. They pose a serious public relations problem if — as will be inevitable — they are used by mistake against civilians. There is a genuine danger of the police further isolating themselves from the community they are there to serve. No police force can operate without community support.

Police chiefs are expected to approve the reopening of CS spray trials at a meeting later this month. That's understandable. But let them be genuine trials, properly monitored and assessed. Let there be proper analysis of the occasions where the sprays are misused and the reaction of the local community. The police should not need reminding that the best decisions are based on evidence, not ideology.

## Mr Scargill breaks with Labour

Don't write him off. His party could have more than nuisance value

IT SEEMED improbable when the idea was first floated by Arthur Scargill a few months ago. But there is now a growing likelihood that a breakaway Socialist Labour Party will be up and running this year and — more important still — that it will contest many constituencies in the next general election. Would such a thing matter? That depends on the circumstances. It may not win many votes or any seats, but this SLP could be an important new part of the political landscape under a Labour government.

The putative party is routinely referred to as Mr Scargill's, not unjustly as he is by far the most prominent supporter of the idea, but at this early stage it would be wrong to stereotype the plan as belonging solely to the NUM leader and his coterie. There's an interesting debate going on right now on the periphery of left politics about whether to join the SLP. And in any

case the real founder of the new party is not Mr Scargill but Tony Blair, whose continuing realignment of British politics is at last forcing many leftists who gravitated to the party in the Bennite era to reconsider whether Labour is really the party for them.

In an article in January's Red Pepper magazine, Mr Scargill proposes that the new party should be founded on May 1 this year and be ready to fight every seat in the coming election. This will seem fantastic to many observers. But with luck and intelligence the new party could one day become an occasionally significant alternative when the going gets tougher for Mr Blair — and especially if proportional representation ever becomes more than a daydream. So keep your eye on Mr Scargill, and not just in the long run. He must soon decide whether to give the new party an early run in the Hemsforth byelection next month.



## Letters to the Editor

### Fun, morals and money

I WAS dismayed to hear Virginia Bottomley on the Today programme describe the National Lottery as "great fun". I invite her to speak with some of the support agencies which have to address the fallout from the Lottery.

Is she aware that Gamblers Anonymous has reported that calls to its telephone helpline have increased by 17 per cent since the Lottery began? Has she listened to those concerned that young people are becoming hooked on scratch-cards? Has she spoken to those agencies which counsel families with debt problems, exacerbated by spending on the Lottery? Her remarks about the Lottery maximising the return to good causes do little to safeguard the work of those charities which should not have to face the ethical dilemma of asking for Lottery money. Where is the provision for those organisations which, on moral grounds, will not accept any Lottery funds?

I trust the Heritage Secretary will listen to the growing moral disquiet at the huge sums on offer and set up an all-party inquiry to address caping prizes and reducing organisers' profits. Parliament should revive the recommendation of the 1978 Royal Commission that a Gambling Research Council be established, and Camelot should make money available for authentic independent research.

David Coffey,  
General Secretary,  
Rapist Union of Great Britain,  
129 Broadway,  
Didcot, OX11 8RT.

WHILE agreeing that a £40 million Lottery win would be excessive, I feel that the Bishop of Wakefield (Obscene, says bishop as Lottery jackpot could be set to reach £40m, January 1) can afford a moral view because he doesn't actually feel the need to win.

Clergy are not wealthy but they are part of the "comfortable" top 40 per cent who might regard playing the Lottery as "a bit of fun". For people on benefit or low income, unable to afford holidays, football, the theatre — sometimes even food — and who dread bills, a Lottery ticket is an act of hope and optimism against the odds. As an ex-benefit claimant, I know.

We know that the rich live longer, are healthier and generally have fuller, happier lives. The Church should admit this and address systemic poverty rather than the morality of a game which ordinary people see as a way out of their plight.

(Rev) Michael Rowberry,  
83 Kingston Road,  
Earlsdon, Coventry CV5 6LQ.

death and re-birth was transformed into an easily controlled "belief" system based on the alleged birth of a divine being and a set of rules and regulations for "his" worship.

Can I suggest that the Church change tack and, instead of worshipping a superhuman being with magical powers and an omnipotent dad, they start deifying money? A "belief" system based on money is the only way they are likely to exert control again.

Norman Jones,  
Digby Mansions,  
London W6.

OBSCENE is a very handy word when discussing the Lottery but the truly obscene fact is not just the preposterous prospect of a single £30-£40 million prize, it is the wholly unsatisfactory way the Lottery was set up. That the organisers should retain such monumental profits flies in the face of logic and justice and holds two (uncredited) fingers up the public.

Michael Burgess,  
12 Clubs Lane,  
Boxford, Sudbury,  
Suffolk CO10 5EN.

### Veterans give their verdicts on Arthur's latest venture

WONDER if Arthur Scargill and others have considered what happened to the Independent Labour Party (ILP) when it foolishly disaffiliated from the Labour Party after Ramsay MacDonald's betrayal and the formation of a so-called national government in 1931?

Nye Bevan, then a young leftwing MP, warned that disaffiliation would confine the ILP to irrelevance. He told his wife, Jennie Lee, that she and her group would not influence British politics by as much as a hair's breadth. Despite this, the ILP believed it could replace Labour in the industrial working-class areas, but it turned out otherwise: by the mid-1940s, most of the membership were only too glad to be back in the Labour Party.

The Labour movement will look upon Scargill's foolish venture as an utter irrelevance in British politics. David Wainick MP,  
House of Commons,  
London SW1A 0AA.

KIM Howells MP (January 4) demands the "speedy expulsion" of Arthur Scargill, drawing a parallel with the 10-year assault on the Militant newspaper. How ironic. The five Militant editors were expelled with 121 years' Labour Party membership between them, just as Howells was joining from the Communist Party!

Tony Blair fondly refers to old Liberalism; Beveridge, Keynes, even Gladstone, as his inspirers. He should remember Liberalism's high-water mark. In 1906, anti-Tory ha-

red brought them to power, swiftly followed by their decline. A similar process will take place with New Labour. Tony Blair has ended the federation — some called it the broad church — of organisations and opinions that used to be the Labour Party. This has big implications. It means that as New Labour becomes more monolithic, centralised and ideologically rigid, opposition to a Blair government will be reflected not so much within New Labour but by a bigger movement to a Socialist organisation outside. This is already the experience in Italy and Spain. It is why we support Arthur's initiative. Mike Waddington,  
Militant Labour Executive Committee,  
3-13 Hepscoot Road,  
London E9 5HB.

ARTHUR Scargill, whose views I strongly support, is making a serious mistake if he attempts to set up a new party. It will weaken the influence of those who will certainly remain within the Labour Party, including such fine leaders as Tony Benn, Dennis Skinner, Ken Livingstone, Dr Alan Simpson, Jeremy Corbyn and others.

A breakaway Socialist Party would delight the Conservative Government. It would fail to win seats, yet might take away sufficient votes from Labour candidates to end their hopes in some marginal constituencies. Frank Allam,  
7 Southampton Place,  
London WC1A 2DR.

## Houses of horror

DURING the West case, we were constantly reminded by leading counsel for the Crown what a tiny, poky little house 25 Cromwell Street was. These observations were made by Neil Butterfield QC (now Justice Butterfield) and by Brian Leverson QC and, if my recollection is correct, Mr Justice Mantell endorsed the view.

It is interesting to contrast such a view with the present government guidelines for families seeking housing benefits to meet their accommodation rental. In essence, these make it clear that a property similar to 25 Cromwell Street is much too large for a family comprising a husband, wife and six children.

Can it be that our ultra-conservative Bar and judiciary are accustomed to such grandeur and space in their housing needs that their perception of space in residential property contrasts so starkly with that of the Government?

Who are the liars — the conservative Bar and judiciary, or the Conservative Government? Leo Goatley,  
Solicitor Advocate,  
11 Denmark Road,  
Gloucester GL1 3EZ.



## Soccer's chance to score big

I AM delighted to read (January 3) that my "obscure" study of historical heights may be used by Fifa to justify enlarging the goalposts so that more goals are scored.

However, they will need to take care. When the British codified the rules of soccer, we were among the tallest peoples in the world. We are certainly now much taller, but we have meantime been passed by other nations, which are wealthier and healthier. Why should we set the standard, rather than the Dutch, Swedes or Norwegians, whose young men are now about five centimetres taller than the British?

In addition, as Smallweed

noted (December 30), the upper classes are much taller than the workers. Were the officials who set the present size of the goalposts in 1883-85 thinking of their own heights or of those of the much shorter players from the working classes?

Lastly, we are not only taller but also, probably, stronger. Should not Fifa also recognise this, perhaps the pitches should be made bigger or the games last longer?

(Prof) Roderick Floud,  
Provost,  
London Guildhall University,  
117-119 Houndsditch,  
London ECSA 7BU.

## A few wrongs of copyright

EMMA Trevelyan (Letters, January 4) defends the recent extension of European copyright to life plus 70 years on the grounds that it promotes international copyright harmonisation. This is pure humbug. Until the current legislation only Germany had a 70-year copyright term.

In most countries, following the Berne Convention, the period of protection remains at 50 years. The battle now shifts to the United States, where vested-interest groups like the Authors' Guild are trying to get the term increased to 70 years in the name of "harmonisation with Europe". Clever, isn't it?

Whatever legislation is adopted in the US, it will come about after open Congressional hearings, and it will not be retrospective. Copyright extension in Europe has proved

to be a textbook example of the so-called democratic deficit in the EU and the easiness with which the broad public interest is overlooked. (Prof) Patrick Parrinder,  
82 Hillfield Avenue,  
London N8 7DN.

JOHN Porter (Letters, January 4) states that copyright works which are owned by legal entities are protected in perpetuity. In fact, the test is the life of the author plus 70, not the owner. The assignment of copyright to a company will therefore have no effect on the period of copyright protection. Should the author register a work's title as a trademark, however, that can offer potentially perpetual protection. Anthony Mosawi,  
Brown Cooper Solicitors,  
7 Southampton Place,  
London WC1A 2DR.

## A Country Diary

NORTHUMBERLAND: Deep snow here persisted over the holiday period. We have been kept busy filling the hay trough, so that the horse had sustenance when he exercised in the field, and breaking ice on water buckets. Unlike cats, which raise fastidious paws and complain on snowy doorsteps, the dogs frolicked. We went to Kelly's wood on our talking patch at dawn to the white turnips, which we knew the hill-farmer planned to use as a stand-by for his ewes next month. Flakes of snow drifted across the windscreen on the forestry track and rabbits scampered in the headlights over icebound ruts to sanctuary in the dykes. Every glade here is crisscrossed with wandering tracks and trails of wild creature bare branches. The bleak, have a pristine covering of snow, we might be 1,000 miles from civilisation. The turnip field is a small acreage in the lee of a plantation. We leave the vehicle 100 yards away and walk stealthily to our

vantage place. There, caught in *flagrant delicto* as it were, we picked up five roe with our binoculars immediately. This visit was exploratory only, there was no intention to cull. So, after an interval (freezing cold in 14 degrees of frost) we showed ourselves and the little party of beasts melted away into the sanctuary of the forest. The field looked as though a herd of buffalo had been trampling, the deer had tipped tops of turnips, chewed others, jumping over two strands of wire to get at the food. The last, a fine buck, into the sanctuary of trees, was silhouetted against the pink-tinged frosty sky as we watched him drink nonchalantly over the wire, his white rump bobbing. The females are always the leaders where deer of every species are concerned. That foray turned out to be the easiest of this week — since then the marauders have become wary. This morning only two yearling does were hoofing new snow off the grounds.

VERONICA HEATH

سكنا من الاجل



Diary Matthew Norman

I am concerned, yet again, for my friend Paul Johnson. He appears to be in the grip of so severe a bout of writer's block that he is now relying on the City's wine-writer Takl-Gelge to compose his Spectator articles for him. What else explains for him. What else explains the piece that appears under Paul's byline this week? "Major is back" it says, "by Matthew Farris, a self-styled protagonist of a journalism whom I think of as the Times's Sodom Correspondent." This is not the same and rational Paul we adore; the stylistic wit of Takl-Gelge becomes unmistakable when he poses the question "So why do the queers like Major?" the article descends into pithy English. ("In fact is an easy one," it goes on. "He make dem tink hees on zair side. Ee does that to everyone.") Grieved by panic as his headline approached, Paul must have called T.G. and begged him to dictate 1,000 words down the phone, which he hurriedly typed out and then fled under his own name. Tragic to relate, it seems that Paul Johnson has been reduced to Britain's stenographer-in-chief.

In further worrying news for Johnson fans, meanwhile, his status as the hothouse of the age is threatened by cricket commentator Trevor Bailey. Having told readers on Wednesday that "Paul Adams certainly can't bat" (as proceeded to score a match-turning 29), Mr Bailey hit top form yesterday. "What on earth did Hick have for lunch?" he mused. "He's been twice the player since then. He's confident, he's dangerous, and he's destined never to finish the sentence. Mr Bailey was at this point interrupted. There's an appeal for IBW," said his co-commentator, "and Hick is out."

UNPLEASANTNESS has broken out again in the volatile world of brass bands. A member of the highly ranked British Nuclear Fuels Brass Band has been suspended from competition. The man, whose name and instrument have been withheld, went ballistic at the result of the national final, during which he verbally abused the conductor of the famous Black Dyke Mills Band. For bringing this noblest of leisure pursuits into disrepute, he has been banned from competition for two years.

CONFUSION surrounds the identity of the stalker whom Madonna has been so reluctant to face in a California court-room. The name of the man accused of plaguing her, and of threatening to kill her, has become her wife, is Robert Hoskins. The Diary has been asked to make it absolutely clear that this is not Robert "Bob" Hoskins, the professional chirpy Cockney cheeky chappie who stars in the BT commercials. It is easy to understand how the confusion arose. Madonna's Mr Hoskins is famous throughout America for his hilarious catchphrase, "It's good to stalk."

IN the most astonishing move since Little Gumb dropped his Selwyn, "Independent" has changed its name. It is now "the Independent". It very nearly became "an Independent", but staff sensibly re-interpreted the memo to which acting editor Charlie Wilson announced his brainwave with the words: "From today, the indefinite article will be restored to the paper." And so to today's instalment of the Wit and Wisdom of Gentleman Charlie, which finds the few Glaswegian addressing senior news executive Simon Kelnor. "You should keep your mouth shut. When you keep your mouth shut, people only think you're a plover. It's when you open it that they know you are."

THE following sign, placed next to a large colour photo of a hairy mammal by a malcontented wife, has been seen in the window of an abandoned central London shop. "Wanted: sloth. Generally seen around the Great Titchfield area. Sleeps 18 hours a day. Totally useless animal. Answers to the name of Richard. Reward: if you find him, you can keep him."

FROM the world of commerce comes news of an exciting, three-way business merger — or, to quote from the understated press release, "a triple alliance more powerful than anything seen before in the industry". As its chairman buoyantly explains, "the traditional strengths of each company are now enhanced by two new components — synergy and unity of vision". The product the triple alliance will make is lubricant, by the way, and its name is Fuchs.

No place for dreams on the syllabus

Commentary Peter Preston

EDUCATION'S 30-year rule is iron-clad inexorable: what goes around comes around. This week's burst of old Cabinet papers may, in most respects, appear the stuff of pre-history — Harold Wilson, George Brown, Rhodesia, the TUC. But time does not touch education. There the issues come deep-frozen.

Three decades ago, a Labour Cabinet was agonising about comprehensive schooling — and, in particular, the baleful havoc to the principle of non-selection wreaked by public schools. Education Secretary Michael Stewart the grey man's grey man — was saddled with some manifesto chat about abolition. He murmured a few warnings and left for the Foreign Office. Enter one of the great political brains of post-war politics.

Tony Crosland, louché waistcoat, long cheeks and all, was the kind of Labour politician who seems to have become extinct, an intellectual, rather supercilious toff who could yet move policy since then. He was the real beginning of comprehensive education. He gave a series of

experiments cohesion. He laid the foundations for a revolution which, seven years later, had become so consensual, so utterly uncontentious, that a Conservative Education Secretary called Margaret Thatcher could set records for blending grammar schools and secondary moderns into a comprehensive future.

Crosland got so far because he worked wholly with the grain of public opinion. Selection wasn't popular. It was deeply, deeply reviled. Labour may, after the war, have embraced the 11-plus as a neutral, quasi-scientific way of recognising ability irrespective of a kid's social class. But, 20 years on, that which pronounced one child in five a talent — and four in five non-starters — had become political poison.

Comprehensives offered two great boons. One was the apparent end of selection. All pupils from a single catchment area could have the same teachers, the same buildings, the same chance. The other was the greater good of social engineering. If children from every background could share the same opportunities in education, then class and privilege would surely drop away as friendships and experiences grew from a common classroom.

It was here, manifestly, that public schools got in the way. They were the preserve of a rich élite. Whilst they remained, the full dream of a classless society could never be realised. Crosland, like Stewart, was required to act

but trouble came quickly. Stewart had already begun to shrink from the original pursuit of manufactured catchment areas — where children, from, say, deprived neighbourhoods would be bused each day to a leafy suburb. That was not, he concluded, "politically practical". Crosland, equally, found the establishment aroused by the threat to its own schools — and a cost for abolition to make the Treasury cringe. He set out to slide around the problem. Something called "boarding need" was created. Thousands of children, we were told, might be better taken from their (perhaps broken) homes and found quota slots at Eton or Charterhouse. A saintly Public Schools Commission, under the wisest of old birds, John Newsom, was set up to quantify this need and produce detailed plans. The wizard Wilson loved such bodies. They consulted extensively and, with any luck, reported only when the moment for possible reform had passed. So it proved with Newsom. Crosland had departed: Labour was stuck in a place of strife. The public schools went on their merry way untouched.

AND NOW? It is almost as though 30 years have passed. Blair's Labour would give the public schools a little financial discomfit, but they lie in the Vauxhall Conference of his priorities. Grant-maintained status — in a way that would make Newsom twinkle — will be circumspectly maintained. There is no surging faith in comprehensive expansion. How could there be in a country whose educational standards are (allegedly) the laughing stock of the developed world? And where is the triumph of social engineering in a society (allegedly) more violently divisive than ever before? John Major, here, really does stand to the far right of Margaret Thatcher. He reverses grammar schools; he baits the hook for any headmaster minded to opt out; he will next week allow an overt return to the forms of tested or interviewed selection which blossomed before the invention of the 11-plus. And he does all this because he thinks it's popular, a vote-winner, an election issue he can work with.

The huge English delusion — for the Scots are steeper in these matters — is that nice scenes flow from shifting the scenery we like to call our system. In one resounding way, there has been profound change — its unlikely hero, Kenneth Baker. A country where nothing on for 30 years to schoolchildren now go on to higher education, a country touching European levels of university population, cannot possibly return to the grammar-school elitism where only half that number had a chance of moving on. Mr Major, blantly uncomprehending, is spitting on the second great achievement of Margaret Thatcher. It is crass to look back to the supposed tranquillities of Ruttish School in the fifties and seek to recreate them — for Ruttish then was an island already eroded by public frustration.

But how does New Labour led by an old public schoolboy — move the clock forward? The hope — the best, fragile hope — is that it has learned something from the futile years of system churn. Comprehensive schools are the schools that most of our children have. There is nothing to be gained from their abolition. But they cannot be

made suddenly better by some fresh systemic move against the selective sector. There is no appetite to find nirvana via a renewed attack on the public schools, and English north of the Wash would barely notice in any case. Selection by well-heeled suburbia, which defeated Michael Stewart, continues as politically impractical as ever. The transformation of society from a shared classroom continues as elusive as ever.

If Mr Blair is reading his runes of Cabinets past aught, he will knock dreams from the syllabus. It is necessary to give parents real choice. It is necessary to publish all the facts about schools which reasonably fit a questioning brief. It is necessary to let individual schools have individual specialities — like music or art — and thus to provide the chance for children from across a big city who have the talent (yes, by selection) to travel to them. It is necessary to have the framework for coherent governance that local education authorities can still provide — but not to allow them to prescribe in onerous detail. And it is necessary — on all battered experience — to divide pupils by the aptitude of set once they're under the same comprehensive roof. This, by no chance whatsoever, is already the essential Labour pitch. No systemic change: mere fine tuning. Perhaps Tony Crosland would blow cheroot smoke in its face and think it the wreck of the future he planned. It isn't, after all, a system: just a compilation of differences. But as John Major launches into the past, seeking to recreate a system which failed utterly, there is a lot to be said for abandoning such illusions altogether. There is, at root, no such thing as an English education system. There is only a patchwork of compromises which makes education a little better or a little worse. No prizes for the current class of political meddlers. No prizes, surveying the detritus of 30 years, for meddlers to come.

Overviewing with Tony down under



Bel Littlejohn

GOODBYE 1995, a year I certainly won't be sorry to see the back of. It ended, as it began, on holiday with Tony, Cherie and the kids, this time on the outbreak in Oz. Talk about pure relaxation. So as to feel totally on his bolts, Tony had brought along just the basic minimum of close personal aides and advisers — yours truly for tea and sympathy, in case the Tory-based media (and I exclude Mr Rupert Murdoch's highly professional operation from this general observation) chose to take a yuletide potshot: Jack Straw, for an endless supply of various anecdotes and sheer good vibes; Robin Cook for percussion (maracas, tambourine, occasional spoons) in the jam sessions; and of course the much-loved John Prescott, to land a hand with the luggage. Together, we made a great team, and our evenings were spent strumming song fully under the beautiful big Oz moon while Jack Straw intoned the most recent long-term policy initiatives in D Minor that he had been penning during the day.

depriving a generation thirsty for knowledge of any serious political and cultural news coverage. Thanks a lot, guys.

And what does the future hold? From where I'm standing, the prospects look pretty damn bleak. As the mid-90s give way to the mid-to-late 90s, the obsessive cry of "Me, Me, Me" has become the order of the day, and this solipsism has far-reaching consequences for the entire planet, but in particular for me. I am regularly approached by the media to offer an "overview" on this decade or that. Later this year viewers will be able to see the six-part series "Bel's 1990s" on Auntie Beeb, in which I condemn it as a decade of "avarice, self-aggrandisement and indifference to others". So much for the bleak 90s, which followed hard on the bleak 70s as being one of the bleakest decades of this, the bleakest of centuries. And what of the 90s? So far, it's shaping into a pretty bleak era. For instance, as recently as February 1994 I was asked to host my own chat show, "Bel's People" for Channel 4. Though the pilot was universally recognised by me to have been a total success, the predominantly male, middle-aged, middle-class Powers were so revolted by my describing it variously as a "shambles" and an "embarrassment", which as you may know is tele-speak for "light years ahead of its time". And this seemed to me a peculiarly 90s vignette.

WE WERE sitting around that billiard room, Tony, Cherie, Jack, Robin and I, chatting late into the night about the future when someone — perhaps it was Tony himself — asked how we saw the world in 100 years. Hmmmm. The Big One. I was the first to stick my neck out. "The Information Superhighway," I said, and everybody nodded sagely. These days, I find I'm often mentioning the Information Superhighway in conversation and in articles and "overviews". Everybody always nods sagely. In that way, it's a very 90s concept.

Then Jack Straw chimed in. "In 100 years' time," he said, "I hope and trust that this discredited Major government will have been ousted and a New Labour government will be cracking down on the squeeze merchants who are plaguing our inner-cities."

"Brave words, Jack — well done," said Tony, and we all looked at Jack in admiration. "We need visionaries like you in New Labour. Any other visions of the year 2095?"

"I envisage a newer, gentler, softer, more conciliatory Britain," said John Prescott, looking up from the washing-up to bite the head off a passing toad. "And if anyone disagrees, they'll have to reckon with it."

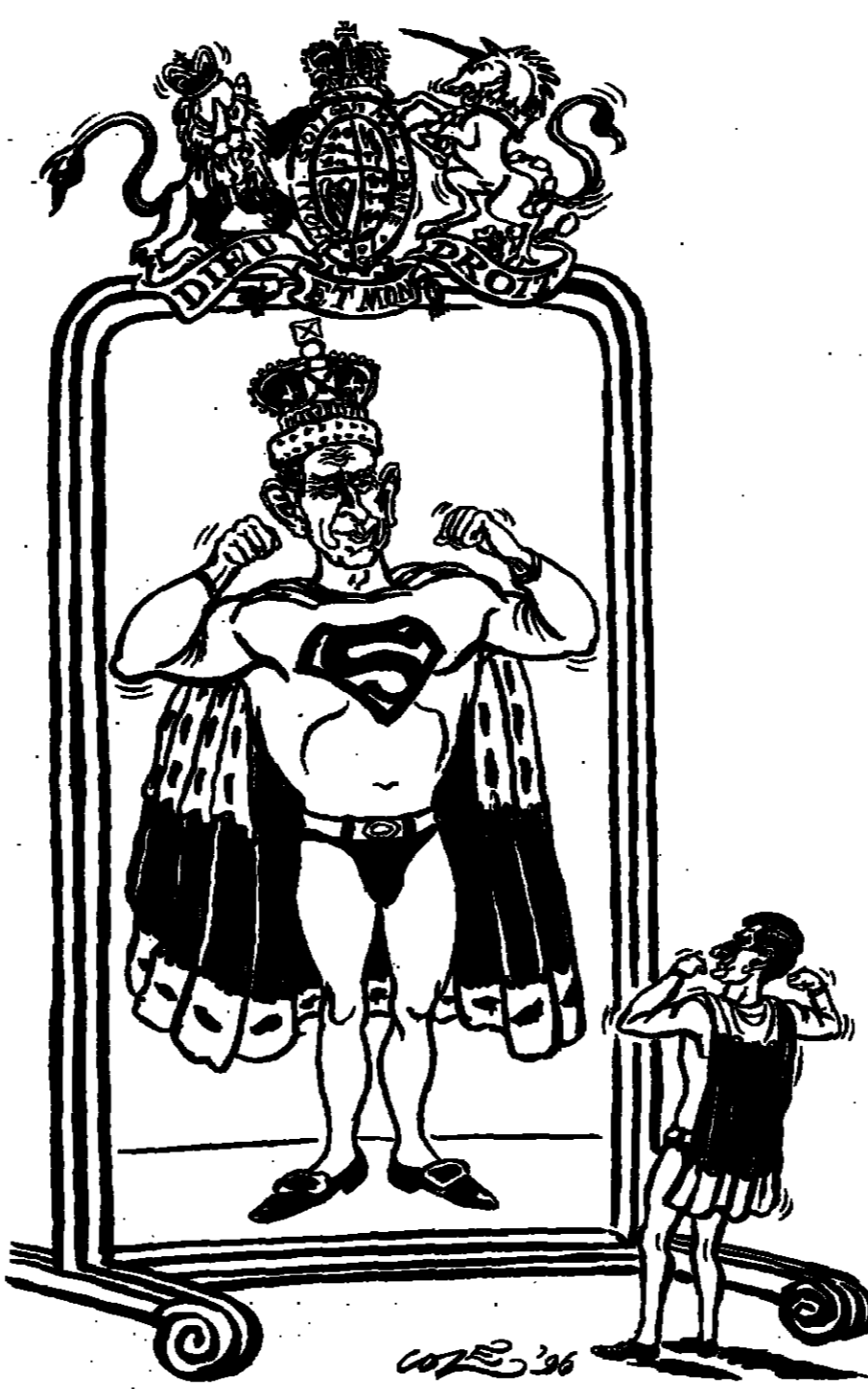
Roy Hattersley argues that recent royal tomfoolery is a mere symptom of Britain's chronic constitutional malaise, which is crying out for radical surgery

About time we grew up

IT WOULD be easy to believe that, during the past six months, the monarchy has made itself ridiculous — easy but wrong. The monarchy (the institution, not the individuals who make it up) has been ridiculous for years. All that has happened during the past six months is that the absurdities have become embarrassingly obvious. Yet we go on pretending that its continuation is essential to what the Duke of Wellington called "our matchless constitution".

A couple of years ago, at the suggestion of another newspaper, I asked a variety of admirals, generals and senior civil servants what real difference the creation of a republic would make to the work of the Departments of State in which they spent their lives. They could not come up with enough examples of change to justify a 1,000-word article. Britain remains a monarchy because of sentiment, inertia and the vested interests of a media which knows that Princess Diana sells more newspapers than Paul Gascoigne. The bonus of the past six months is the attention which has been focused on one indisputable fact. At the head of our state there is an anachronism.

These days, the younger members of the royal family are uneasily suspended somewhere between Ruritania and the Chelsea Harbour Club. In consequence their existence is complicated by an understandable attempt to enjoy the best of both worlds. In private they want to live their own lives. But they expect to be treated in public with the awe which is due to the Lord's Anointed. For some unaccountable reason, politicians and editors join in the conspiracy that all members of the House of Windsor are endowed with superhuman attributes. The result is an extraordinary paradox. The Prince and Princess of Wales have developed pretensions which, if not above their station, are certainly beyond their capabilities. People who ought to know better, join in the pretence that they are intrinsically superior human beings. The existence of the royal family makes us all accomplices in this debilitating farce of its existence.



should be either pseudo-classical or Georgian pastiche. Citizens of a grown-up nation should feel no obligation to observe the conventions of a medieval court and counter-factual belief in the royal family's omniscience.

Yet the existence of a monarchy encourages — indeed requires — otherwise sensible people to accept, or pretend to accept, all sorts of nonsense and maintain a discreet and obsequious silence when the appropriate response would be criticism. What sort of a free press is it that barely comments on the Queen's decision to urge her son to obtain a divorce? Had the Prince of Wales sought anonymous guidance from the nation's agony aunts, most of them would have told him that his mother should mind her own business. But no editor volunteered that

view. No doubt Lord St John of Fawley will explain that the Prince's marriage is the Queen's business because she has an obligation to guarantee the safety and continuity of the royal line. That is a judgement appropriate to the Habsburgs and the Hohenzollerns. And even they would have spoken to the unhappy young man. Why did Her Majesty send the advice in a letter? Buckingham Palace certainly has telephones. Does she, like her grandmother, regard their use as inappropriate to royalty?

We know that there are telephones in royal palaces because the Princess of Wales referred to them in detail during her Panorama interview. She said on that wholly memorable occasion that her calls had been intercepted by her enemies in or about Buckingham Palace and that her letters

longs to those countries which, long ago, abandoned the idea that birth alone is a qualification for anything, and look with amused contempt on the suggestion that some families can bequeath the right of respect to their heirs and successors. The hereditary principle is inconsistent with the creation of either a genuinely mobile or a truly equal society — the only alternatives open to Britain if we do not choose to become a Victorian theme park.

Admittedly, there are still instances in which actively encourage Britain to live in the past rather than the present. And the existence of a monarchy increases the temptation to look backwards towards our glorious history rather than forwards towards our uncertain future. Yesterday, the story goes, we kept the sovereign's head on our coins, traded with the Empire on which the Sun never set and lived in the peaceful contentment that comes from everyone knowing their place in the community which had the monarch at the top of the heap. Those days are gone for ever and nothing could be more debilitating than the belief that in the past we were better off. It is a pity that we perpetuate the damaging nostalgia by constant obeisance to an institution which should have faded with the steam engine, the gas mantle and the colonial service. The attraction which it provides to transatlantic tourists is no compensation for the harm which it does.

UNDOUBTEDLY the monarchy's attraction is fading fast — not because of the personal conduct of the royal family (which should be none of our business) but because of the institution's obvious incompatibility with the modern world. Politicians have been driven back into the old guard's last refuge — the claim that the alternative would be even worse. The nation is therefore threatened with the risk of having to choose between President Tebbit and President Hesley. Neither of those gentlemen could possibly be presidential candidates in a form of democracy which maintained the executive authority of government and the legislative power of Parliament. The nominees would be either distinguished political neutrals or elderly nonentities.

If we were lucky, we would elect our version of Mary Robinson. More likely, we would choose someone who competently performed official functions but did so little else that few people could remember the name.

Either way, we would escape from our present anarchy — an aspect of our constitution which is nationally indefensible but kept in place by subservience and sentimentality. Growth-ups would regard that change as an enormous relief.

Advertisement for Hamilton Finance. Text: "Our rate is now down to its lowest ever 13.8% APR". Includes contact information: "FREEPHONE 0800 30 3000".



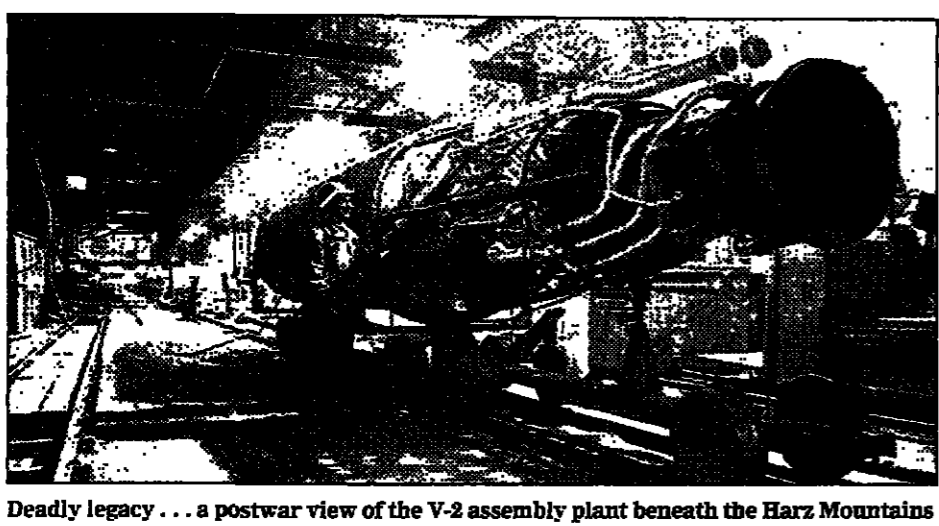
Arthur Rudolph

Nazi way to the stars

AT THE height of his first career as director of the production of V-2 rockets in Nazi Germany towards the end of the second world war...

just that Rudolph should die in exile in his own country. Most of the Dora Mittelbau labour force were political prisoners from the nearby Buchenwald concentration camp...

essential knowledge of propellants, control and guidance systems had still to be gained. The potential of Dornberger's vision, guided by Von Braun and Rudolph, was recognised...



Deadly legacy... a postwar view of the V-2 assembly plant beneath the Harz Mountains

Birthdays

Jean-Pierre Aumont, actor, 65; Alfred Brendel, concert pianist, 65; John Darby, chairman, ABB Transportation, 65; Robert Duvall, actor, 65; Ferrelle da Silva Eusebio, footballer, 53; Derek Harrison, inventor, 67; Sir Frank Hartley, pharmaceutical chemist, former vice-chancellor, London University, 85; Jean, Grand Duke of Luxembourg, 75; Vinnie Jones, footballer, 31; King Juan Carlos of Spain, 38; Diane Kruger, film actress, 30; Mansur Ali Khan, Nawab of Pataudi, former cricketer, 55; Lord Kingsdown, former governor, Bank of England, 69; Jan Leeming, broadcaster, 54; Walter Mondale, former US vice-president, 68; Maurizio Pollini, pianist, 54; Lt Gen Michael Rose, former commander, UN forces in Bosnia, 56; Louis Stewart, jazz guitarist, 52; Gen Sir John Sillibon, former Master General of the Ordnance, 61; Allison Wright, director-general, British Invisibles, 51.

Admiral Arleigh Burke

Full power and glory in the Pacific

ADMIRAL Arleigh Burke, of the United States Navy, who has died aged 94, was his country's most successful wartime destroyer leader, known as '31-knot Burke'...

they could not hit themselves hard enough to kill themselves. There was one man on the port side who did not want to drown; he was swimming very slowly towards the ship. We threw him a life-ring. You could see him struggle slowly and drown. It seemed a shame that so many of those people who wanted to die could not have died easier and the man who wanted to live could not have lived.



Admiral Arleigh Burke, flanked by the First Sea Lord, Earl Mountbatten (left), and Admiral of the Fleet Sir George Creasy, during a visit to HMS Victory at Portsmouth



Arthur Rudolph... honoured and then exiled by the US

country had seized him as a prize enemy military scientist, perhaps saved him from execution and, for his own purposes, adopted, empowered and honoured him. Arthur Rudolph directed, indeed masterminded, the development and production of the giant Saturn V for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's moon landing programme...

Elsie Osborne

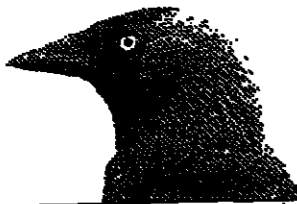
For the sake of the child

ELSIE Osborne, who has died aged 71, was quietly charismatic and one of the wisest of educational and clinical child psychologists, working at north London's Tavistock Clinic for almost 30 years...

Another Day

January 5, 1821: Rose late - dull and drooping - the weather dripping and dense. Snow on the ground, and sirocco above in the sky, like yesterday. Roads up to the horse's belly, so that riding (at least for pleasure) is not very feasible...

Jackdaw



Hacking it

NOWADAYS it is impossible to be taken seriously as a foreign correspondent or a real man without a Bosnian stamp in your passport. And so the place is heaving with journalists...

Roach heaven

ON THE LIST of laboratory animals being defended by animal rights activists, it is safe to say that you will not find the creatures now being kept in Lab Room 011 of the Natural Sciences Building at the State University of New York in Old Westbury...

Essex boy

WHEN Rodney Archer first moved into his Georgian terraced home in London's Spitalfields, his baggage didn't just include furniture and furnishings. He also brought with him a wide-ranging life's history which includes fond memories of his birthplace, Romford ('I'm an Essex boy')...

Letters

Nick Davies writes: There was a lesson in the life of Sid Thompson (obituary, January 4) and it was one which he was about to spread very widely. After the Guardian story last August about him and his climbing companion, Cliff Sandham, all kinds of people got in touch to ask for advice, or to try to join them, or simply to encourage them, to carry on climbing. The two were about to take several elderly people up in the Lake District peaks with them; one of them was registered blind.

Death Notices

SEITCHER, John Henry (formerly of Stamford District of HM Factory inspectors, died peacefully at home on Sunday 3rd January 1996, aged 74 years. Much loved by wife, 2 daughters, 2 grandsons, 2 great-grandsons, 10 great-granddaughters. Burial at Stamford on Thursday 11th January 1996 at 2.00 pm. All enquiries regarding funeral arrangements to the Redwood Care Co-operative Funeral Service, tel 01780 427278.

Memorial Services

MARSH, Billy, 1917-1996. A Memorial Service of celebration and thanksgiving for the life of Billy Marsh will be held on Sunday 10th January 1996 at 11.00 am in the Church of the Holy Trinity, 100 Strand, London WC2R 0LJ. All enquiries regarding funeral arrangements to the Redwood Care Co-operative Funeral Service, tel 01780 427278.

Letters

George & Jo Waldren write: Some years ago, we took a Christmas break at the Christmas House in Thame, Oxfordshire, which was being run by a young man in falling in with Evie Perrick (obituary, November 20) and her husband Ben. We did not find out for some time her journalistic status, although it was obvious that they were people with interesting lives. Their outgoing, pleasant and sympathetic attitudes to us, two quite ordinary people, made this one of those holiday encounters one does not forget. Evie was obviously impatient with her deafness, which must have been hard for such a communicator, but she put over a wonderful personality, and a past full of excitement.

Letters

Elizabeth Bennett, Channel Coast, Valle Paranaé to cool the self-satisfaction of Emma's otherwise handsome, clever and elegant Emma Woodhouse. Gap scents' enchanting stream to intensify the Gothic fantasies of Northanger Abbey's Catherine Morland. Giorgio Armani's mellifluous mature Aqua di Giò to help young Frederica Vernon stave off her matchmaking wicked mother in Lady Susan. The mysterious Bulgari for Men, as as-yet-unknown scent for the mysterious, unknown suitor who courted the great Jane Austen. Retrospective marketing - Intertube magazine's Scents and Sensibility matching brand name with character. Be grateful. We could have named Martin Amis, going on and on and on about JA in the New Yorker. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-719 4366; write to Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Edited by Vanessa Harlow

Interview: Ean de Chawton

Eau de JA

Interview: Ean de Chawton

سكنا من الاجل



Osborne  
for the  
ake of  
le child

Friday January 5 1996

# The Nikkei fights back, page 12

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

## Notebook

### Threadneedle Steps in to prop up sagging pillar



Alex Brummer

THE removal of Michael Lawrence as chief executive of the London Stock Exchange may have been regarded as necessary by its board and members but will be viewed by many as catastrophic for the City's reputation as a financial centre.

globalisation of financial markets, snacks of weakness and amateurism at the highest level of the exchange. Clearing out chief executives is easy enough for boards on the defensive, but the patrician style of John Kemp-Welch and his colleagues has not helped any more than it has at Lloyd's insurance market.

Not so long ago, the highlight of the City year was the annual dinner at the Mansion House for bankers and merchants, addressed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the three pillars of the Square Mile: the Governor of the Bank of England, the chairman of the Stock Exchange and the chairman of Lloyd's.

Of these three pillars only the Bank of England remains relatively intact (BOCI and Barings notwithstanding). The other two have been crumbling before our eyes.

Lloyd's is in the final stages of a battle for survival. The Bank of England is sufficiently concerned about the future of the Stock Exchange and its effect on London's dominance as the trading centre of the new Europe that it has engineered its placement — Ian Flenderleith — into the position of deputy chairman. This is shrewd and sensible City politics for the Bank.

THERE have been murmurings already among non-executive members of the Bank's ruling Court over the failure of the Old Lady to take a more decisive role in the reorganisation and reforming of Lloyd's.

It is clearly determined, as it was at the time of the collapse of the Taurus, the computerised settlement system engineered by former chief executive Peter Rawlins, to ensure that it does not lose the Stock Exchange, too.

The exchange is no longer what it was before Big Bang in 1987, or for that matter Big Bang 2 in 1986 when an extraordinary number of independent British financial houses, from SG Warburg to Smith New Court, were absorbed into global monoliths like Swiss Bank Corporation and Merrill Lynch.

The cosy world of one member, one vote — when a word from the senior partner of Cazenove (Mr Kemp-Welch's former firm) to the Stock Exchange would settle a dispute over a trade, an alleged breach of the rules — is vanishing.

The Stock Exchange is now dealing with a series of global monoliths, from NatWest Securities to UBS and Salomon Brothers, which have shown themselves quite capable, if the exchange fails to meet their trading needs, of picking up their marbles to play elsewhere. This is what hap-

pened late last year when this high-profile trio of firms decided to move their equity business from London to local European exchanges, although they will still trade from their London desks.

ODDLY enough, among the reasons that London has been so successful as a financial centre, a honey-pot for global firms, is that it has lived by a different trading system to that practised by many of its foreign counterparts.

The emphasis in London has been on a quote-driven system in which an intermediary or market-maker takes a considerable risk but where liquidity of the market place, the profits and margins are higher. The Stock Exchange under Michael Lawrence, and at the urging of arms of government like the Office of Fair Trading, has been seeking a shift towards a more

transparent, order-driven exchange.

It was unhappiness among some of the big battalions about the pace of the change which is understood to have been a key factor in Mr Lawrence's downfall. The exchange and Mr Lawrence may have been on the right track, but were not politically adept enough to carry along the key constituency of the six biggest market-makers — a fatal error.

Moreover, there is little doubt that the Stock Exchange's uncertain performance over regulatory issues — including this week's pusillanimous approach to the handling of price-sensitive information affecting the utilities — has not enhanced its reputation.

Ironically, the same exchange that has failed thus far to add the Greenbury recommendations on executive pay to its quotation

requirements, may soon find itself in breach of the same rules over its pay-off to the hapless Mr Lawrence.

The loss of an individual does not mean the death-knell for the Stock Exchange. But it does mean a substantial transfer of power from its Throgmorton Street headquarters to Threadneedle Street.

THE Bank of England has established a leadership in the area of settlement with Crest. It is now adding a significant role in trading through Sequence — the modern, dual-trading system.

Mr Flenderleith is determined to make that work in much the same way as his colleague Pen Kent staked his reputation on Crest. This may be crucial for London's invisible earnings but does not say much for the business or political skills of the existing order at the Stock Exchange.

# Market grandees stick the knife in

### Top-level delegation forces action against Lawrence in face of crisis at the Stock Exchange

Paul Murphy

THE shock departure of Stock Exchange chief executive Michael Lawrence yesterday was precipitated by a delegation of Stock Exchange board members demanding urgent action from the Bank of England, according to senior market sources.

Reports yesterday indicated that one member of the delegation had indicated that his broking firm would withdraw its capital from the London stock market if concerns over the leadership of the exchange were not addressed. Others are believed to have stated that they were prepared to resign their membership of the exchange.

The group represented the City's most powerful trading houses and is said to have included the likes of BZW, the investment banking division of Barclays bank, American brokerage Merrill Lynch, which took over Smith New Court last year, and NatWest Securities.

It is said to have visited the Bank just before Christmas, arguing that Mr Lawrence was ignoring their concerns over the strategy being pursued by the exchange and, in particular, the speed with which new trading systems were being introduced.

Mr Lawrence's resignation comes after a string of blows

to the exchange's credibility. Last autumn Rudi Mueller, the London head of Swiss financial powerhouse UBS, resigned from the board, helped stir up the row over the exchange's future with a charge that it had failed to keep pace with innovations in other European markets.

In November, Mr Lawrence infuriated the biggest market making firms — those who



make constant two-way prices in shares and who rank as the exchange's most powerful members — by bringing forward the introduction of the Sequence trading system to August this year. This new system will allow big investors, such as pension funds, to trade on an "order driven" basis — posting their transactions on trad-

ing screens and avoiding having to put their business through market makers.

"This has been on the cards for some time," noted one of London's most senior market figures last night. "It goes back to the days of Andrew Hugh Smith, who ran the chairmanship in 1980s style. His successor, John Kemp-Welch, was great as a senior partner at Cazenove. But he is from behind the beige door, rather than knowing the heat of the kitchen. The market makers have been saying that any change should come slowly, but Mr Lawrence was just left to run off on his own tangent. Tempers have been getting seriously frayed."

But Brian Winterflood, head of small-company market maker Winterflood Securities, insisted the council had simply "shot the messenger". "We have had a lot of propaganda about how quote-driven systems are no good because no one else uses them. But London is the third biggest equity market in the world, and 85 per cent of European share trades go through the City."

Brokers currently have to be members of the exchange so that they can use the Tallman system for settling share bargains. But from next summer, when the Crest system (run by the Bank) is due to replace Tallman, they will be able to purchase this service regardless of membership of the exchange.

"The exchange is going to be £40 million a year worse off, but we have not seen it doing much to cut costs," one said. An order-driven system would give it the opportunity to change for usage.



Stock Exchange chairman John Kemp-Welch, flanked by Bank of England representative and new joint deputy chairman Ian Flenderleith, left, and established deputy chairman Ian Selter, announces the dismissal of Michael Lawrence

## A case of order driven out

### Why he went

Mark Miller

TO LOSE one chief executive might be thought unfortunate, to lose two looks like catastrophe. Yesterday's enforced, and abrupt, departure of Michael Lawrence from the Stock Exchange leaves one of the City's most august institutions seeking its third chief executive in three years — the sort of thing that if it happened at one of its listed companies, might raise eyebrows within the exchange itself.

The departures of Peter Rawlins and Mr Lawrence appear, on the surface at least, to have quite different origins. Mr Rawlins quit when it became apparent that Taurus — the £40 million system designed to allow physical

share certificates to be replaced with a computerised register — was not only over budget, but also would not do the job.

The cancellation of the project caused the exchange huge embarrassment and Mr Rawlins carried the can for the debacle by resigning.

By contrast, Mr Lawrence's departure did not spring from a single cause. Rather his position seems to have been undermined by a series of events which have called the exchange's judgment into question.

First, there was a brush with the Treasury over its handling of the £4 billion sale of the second tranche of the Government's stakes in the electricity generating companies, another with the regulators over the dissemination of price-sensitive information. Then there was adverse comment on the exchange's

response to the emergence of a small domestic rival, Tradepoint, and a very public row with some City big guns over its strategy towards Europe.

But the issue which seems to have had most bearing on Mr Lawrence's departure was his proposal to bring "order driven" trading to London. An order-driven market would allow investors simply to post buy or sell orders directly into a central system, rather than having to go through the market-makers who form the core of London's "quote driven" market.

Order-driven markets are the norm elsewhere in the world and supporters claim they are both cheaper and more transparent. But such proposals hardly endeared Mr Lawrence to the many market-makers among the exchange's members.

## Mood change in the City

### I love to deal with change

— Michael Lawrence on his appointment

I have been particularly impressed by the quality of skills and resources available at the exchange. I am confident that this knowledge and experience, together with the greater emphasis on organisation, co-ordination and direction under Michael Lawrence will ensure that the London Stock Exchange continues to meet the challenge of providing the market of choice in the UK and internationally

— John Kemp-Welch in exchange's annual report

It's with much regret that the board felt compelled to ask for Mr Lawrence's resignation. He had failed to win confidence of market firms, both large and small and his relationship with the Stock Exchange board had for several months been unsatisfactory

— John Kemp-Welch yesterday

I have never walked away from anything in my life  
I can speak faster than most people think  
— sayings of Michael Lawrence

## A life in the fast lane

### Profile

Lisa Buckingham

MICHAEL Lawrence looks set to receive a golden handshake of at least £350,000 thanks to a one-year rolling contract with perks attached.

The 52-year-old executive joined the exchange in February 1994 after leaving Britain's biggest insurance firm, Prudential, where he was finance director.

Mr Lawrence, whose appointment was welcomed at the time, said he had accepted the job because he relished change.

He has a reputation for living life in the fast lane and for having a lightning quick mind.

Two years ago he bought comedian Rowan Atkinson's red Aston Martin car and is quoted as saying: "I can speak



Lawrence: relished change

faster than most people think."

A qualified pilot, he and his wife have been involved in

running a private aviation company and a property company. He once cited his strength as having the ability to emulate a helicopter, because of his capacity to rise above the details and spot the key issues.

"I have never walked away from anything in my life," he once boasted.

A former Watford County Grammar School pupil, he gained a first class honours degree in physics and a PhD in mathematical physics.

Mr Lawrence acquired many of his business skills during 18 years with the accountancy firm Price Waterhouse. After six years there, he found himself advising on the complete reorganisation of the Port of London.

His titles embrace Freeman of the City of London, Liverrman, chairman of the influential Hundred Group of Finance Directors and member of the council of the Defence Research Agency.

## Flagging car sales dent revival hopes

### Motor industry sees disappointing figures as grounds for asking ministers to help give drivers a lift. Chris Barrie reports

GOVERNMENT hopes of an economic revival ahead of the general election will be dented today when the motor industry reveals that car sales managed only a meagre increase of about 1.5 per cent last year.

Industry sources suggest that sales reached about 1.94 million in 1995, a rise of

about 1.5 per cent on the previous year's total of 1.91 million and a disappointing final tally given a rebound in sales in October and November, when they were up 11.5 per cent and 12.7 per cent respectively on the same months in 1994.

Official figures to be released by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders today are likely to show that sales in December were flat at about 70,000 cars. The same month in 1994, when sales were in the doldrums, saw 73,200 cars sold.

The news is certain to lead to renewed pressure from the industry on the Government to do more to bolster consumer confidence despite recent cuts in interest rates and measures, including tax cuts, announced in the Budget.

The Retail Motor Industry Federation will welcome the 1995 sales increase but warn that consumers are still not buying cars.

and business sales, transactions that are usually on water-thin profit margins.

The SMMT is also set to express disquiet. Its forecasting committee has pencilled in a sales increase this year to 1.97 million cars, rising further to 2 million in 1997.

But Ernie Thompson, the organisation's chief executive, warned last year that any improvement in sales was largely due to marketing initiatives by car manufacturers. Some firms have offered hefty discounts to boost sales.

That amounts to a rise of 9,500 cars on sales in 1994 of 475,000.

Although BMW admitted that Rover's financial performance would not be in line with BMW's aspirations for at least two years, Bernd Fischer, the German company's chairman, added that the Rover business was developing "successfully".

Rover sales fell 6 per cent in the first nine months of last year, but recovered to end 2 per cent up overall after a strong final quarter.

BMW attributed the turnaround to the launch of the Rover 200 and 400 series, which revived sales, and strong exports.

## Vauxhall workers reject 'breakthrough' pay deal

Chris Barrie

VAUXHALL car company was on a collision course with its employees last night after workers at mass meetings voted to reject a pathfinding three-year pay deal said to be worth 10 per cent in the first year alone.

The rejections tore up a tentative agreement thrashed out by managers and unions at a series of marathon meetings before Christmas. It embraced an immediate 4.5 per cent pay rise, followed by an increase in line with inflation over the next two years.

Vauxhall also offered a one-hour cut in the 39-hour week, the first break-

through in a five-year union campaign to reduce the basic working week to nearer continental patterns. German auto-workers this year enter the 35-hour week.

With unions urging the company to reopen talks, the chief union negotiator said he was not surprised by "this overwhelming rejection of the company offer". Tony Woodley, national secretary for the motor industry at the

Transport and General Workers Union, said Vauxhall had misjudged the mood of the workforce and "once again shot itself in the foot".

He said the company had "attached strings" to its offer and pinpointed arrangements for holidays and hospital appointments as areas of concern. The trade unions had only agreed to recommend the deal to the workforce "unenthusiastically".

TOURIST RATES — BANK SETS			
Australia 12.20	France 7.40	Italy 2.400	Singapore 2.18
Canada 2.04	Germany 2.1800	Malta 0.54	South Africa 5.46
Cyprus 0.8976	Greece 365.00	Netherlands 2.4500	Spain 183.00
Denmark 8.45	Hong Kong 11.80	New Zealand 2.33	Sweden 10.16
Finland 6.67	India 54.61	Norway 5.94	Switzerland 1.7450
	Ireland 0.8550	Portugal 227.50	Turkey 90.226
	Israel 4.84	Saudi Arabia 5.78	USA 1.5150

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).



# Dollar hits high against yen as US budget hopes rise

Larry Elliott  
Economics Editor

THE dollar povered to a 21-month high against the yen last night as hopes of an imminent US budget deal accelerated a flow of speculators' cash out of the Japanese currency.

Dealers took last night's postponement until today of talks between the White House and the Republican-dominated Congress in their stride, pushing the dollar higher against all the leading currencies.

With opinion polls showing that the Republicans are attracting most of the blame for the partial shutdown of government caused by the budget impasse, analysts believe that pressure is growing on Congress to come swiftly to an agreement.

Reports that George Soros had been a big buyer of the dollar also helped underpin its strength, with traders say-

ing it appeared to have broken out of its narrow trading range against the yen in recent months.

"Reality has at last started to set in," said Nigel Richardson, economist with the Japanese securities firm, Yamachi. "The Japanese economy has been clobbered by an over-valued currency for some time."

Mr Richardson added that the dollar had been hovering around the 100 level for several months, but there now seemed to be impetus towards pushing it higher.

Yesterday afternoon, the dollar broke above 106.30 yen and 1.4540-50 marks after a news agency quoted an unnamed US Treasury official as saying the dollar had room to appreciate against the yen.

The source cited optimism for the US budget as well as good demand for dollars and high-yielding European currencies as reasons for the dollar's recent rally.

Sterling was dragged higher against the German

mark by the dollar's sharp rise, ending the day in London at its highest for three months.

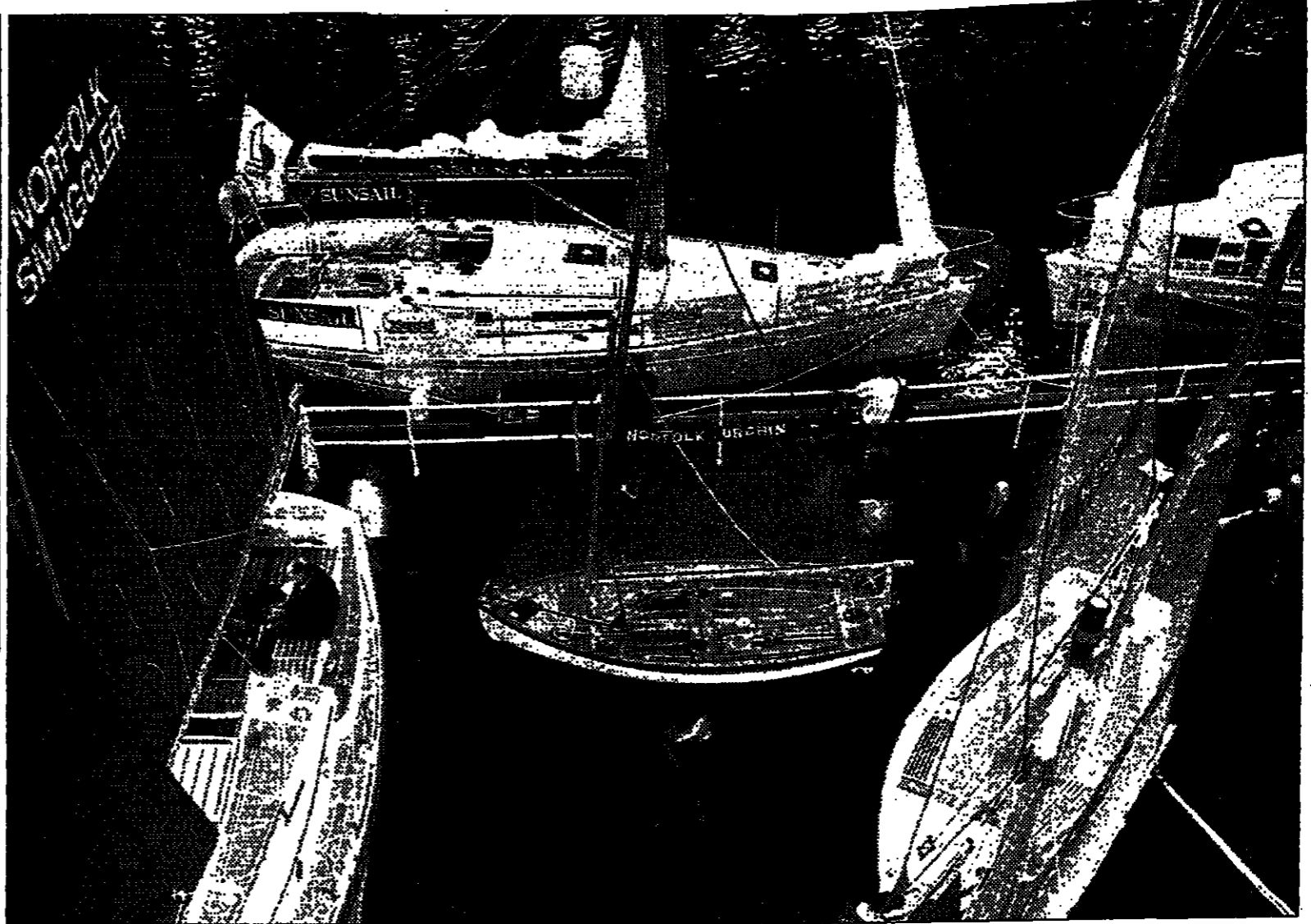
Nick Parsons, analyst at Banque Paribas, said: "Another good factor is that the market knows that the US will come to a budget agreement eventually."

"With a presidential election in 10 months or so, Clinton is going to want to get it through as quickly as possible now."

Mr Parsons added that the dollar market was seeing an "asymmetrical risk" which was providing further support.

The dollar's rise against the mark was primarily triggered by its upward move against the yen, but reports that Mr Soros had sold a billion dollars worth of marks at \$1.4535 also had an impact.

Sterling rose by a penny against the mark to close at DM2.2556 in London. The pound lost half a cent against the dollar to end at just below \$1.55.



# Japanese shares soar as prayers answered

As 1996 trading opens with a bang, many hope zero growth is at an end, reports KEVIN RAFFERTY in Tokyo

THE prayers of a record 87 million Japanese who crowded into shrines and temples to pray for a prosperous new year paid early dividends yesterday, when the Tokyo stock market leapt by almost 750 points, or 3.77 per cent, in the half-day opening session of the year.

"The market did better today than it did all last year," said Paul Migliorini of Jardine Fleming Securities, noting that the Nikkei index gained just 0.7 per cent over the whole of the year. Young women in colourful kimonos and leading executives led hand-clapping yesterday welcoming the new year, and the Nikkei soared to 20,618, a gain of 749.85.

ness community, which was unduly widespread," he said. In Mr Gyobten's view, the weakening of the yen will have an important impact in boosting business confidence. When the yen soared to 80 against the dollar, leading exporters including Toyota, Matsushita and Sony squealed that they needed the currency in the range of 90 to 105 to be profitable. Now they have been granted their wish.

Even so, Mr Gyobten ex-

research arm forecasts growth of only 1 per cent, and the Paris-based Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which estimated last month that Japan would grow by 1.8 per cent this year.

Indeed, there are indications that the stockmarket yesterday let its enthusiasm run away with it. On the basis of past — or even projected — profits, Japanese stocks are expensive compared to those of the US and Europe. Moreover, the excesses of the "bubble economy" of the late 1980s followed by five lean years have left problems.

Banks are still saddled with between £250 billion and £500 billion in non-performing loans as a result of aggressive lending to property ventures, many of which collapsed. Then came the seven bankrupt Jusen, or housing loan companies, set up by banks but fed funds by politically powerful agricultural co-operatives which have refused to take the losses.

The government is proposing to make 650 billion yen (£4.1 billion) of taxpayer money available to help bail out the Jusen, a widely unpopular decision that the opposition is about to tap. The government's own budget is in a mess, and there will be a 25,000 billion yen deficit in the next financial year, taking the accumulated government deficit to 240,000 billion yen or 96 per cent of gross domestic product.

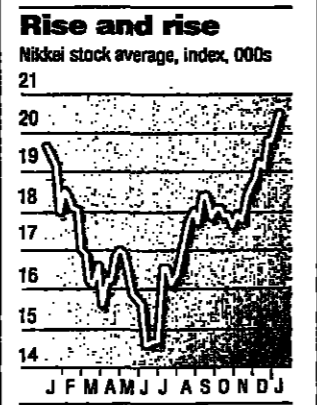
Japan's unemployment rate has also soared to a record 3.4 per cent. This may not seem high to Westerners, but the design of a car or aircraft, the similarities are limited. Success comes from having a portfolio out of which one or more winners might emerge.

Clearly, the bigger the portfolio the more chance of winning, but that is not the same as saying the bigger the company the greater the success. Many blockbusters, including Glaxo's world-beating ulcer drug Zantac, have come from small companies with little track record or marketing clout. Many of the great hopes for the future, including Glaxo Wellcome's new flu drug, come from tiny biotechnology companies which overcome their lack of scale by doing deals with the majors.

The merger of Glaxo and Wellcome's structures will save huge costs. It will not necessarily increase the chances of developing blockbusters. Indeed, because the combination will result in fewer projects being pursued than when the companies were separate, there is less chance of success.

Glaxo's need for Wellcome stemmed from its problems with the imminent expiry of the US patent on Zantac. Some of the huge US takeovers have also been driven by special needs, such as Merck's concern to protect its sales by paying \$6 billion for the distributor, Medco.

No doubt there will be more takeovers, but they may end in tears.



pects growth this year of around 2 per cent, hardly the kind of performance to challenge South Korea or China. The government forecast is for 2.5 per cent in real terms in the fiscal year from April. Robert Feldman of Salomon Brothers predicts 2.6 per cent for this year, thanks to tens of billions of pounds of government pump-priming.

Among the pessimists are Nomura Securities, Japan's biggest stockbroker, whose

# Drugs sector swallows dubious growth theory

Outlook '96/ Takeover mania may have nasty side-effects. Roger Cowe concludes this turn-of-year series

THE drugs industry is caught in the kind of blinkered conventional wisdom which has so often led to calamity in other industrial sectors.

The wisdom is that the industry is too fragmented. The conclusion is that more mergers and acquisitions have to take place, like last year's takeover of Wellcome by Glaxo, Rhône-Poulenc's purchase of Pisons and the other mega-deals of the past couple of years.

Among proponents of this theory are the bankers and other advisers who earn no fees if there are no deals. But the notion has also been swallowed by many in the industry, who see a stark choice between growth and irrelevance.

Not everybody merged from the division of ICI, sees no reason to lose its independence, arguing that it leads its niche of cancer treatment and its lowly standing in the overall league table is irrelevant.

It is difficult to see the flaws in that stance, and examination of the conventional wisdom reveals several holes in the argument for consolidation.

The idea is simple enough. Most industries are dominated by a few firms with big market shares. In the phar-

maceutical industry, on the other hand, Glaxo Wellcome is now the world's biggest drug company with just over 5 per cent of global sales.

On that basis, the conclusion is obvious: more consolidation until the industry is run by four or five groups, the largest of which will sell at least a quarter of the world's drugs.

But it is not obvious that the drugs business will inevitably follow the motor or aerospace examples. These are very different industries, with very different economics. Manufacturing and distribution, where the main economies of scale are won, are insignificant for drugs. Profits are not squeezed out by honing costs to the bone and maximising volumes.

Pressure on costs has clearly come from the difficulty of raising drug prices as governments and other powerful buyers have sought economies. But sales are still growing and will continue to do so as the world gets more "civilised" and its population ages. This is not a business where price is crucial in the choice of product, or profits come primarily from cost control. Nor is it a business where scale is important in getting on buyers' lists.

The key determinant of suc-

cess is finding a winning product, and while there are some parallels with the design of a car or aircraft, the similarities are limited. Success comes from having a portfolio out of which one or more winners might emerge.

Clearly, the bigger the portfolio the more chance of winning, but that is not the same as saying the bigger the company the greater the success. Many blockbusters, including Glaxo's world-beating ulcer drug Zantac, have come from small companies with little track record or marketing clout. Many of the great hopes for the future, including Glaxo Wellcome's new flu drug, come from tiny biotechnology companies which overcome their lack of scale by doing deals with the majors.

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No doubt there will be more takeovers, but they may end in tears.

BRITAIN'S hot summer has been credited with reviving sales by boat builders after years in which exports kept the yards open.

As the 42nd London Boat

Show prepared to open its doors to the public at Earls Court today, Tony Beechey, executive director of the British Marine Industries Federation, said: "Many people have used their

boats a lot more, and need to repair them."

Sarah Carnegie-Brown of Marine Projects, Plymouth, the UK's biggest builder of luxury motor yachts, said: "Our turnover was £51 mil-

lion in 1994, £61 million last year and we are expecting turnover of around £72 million this year."

David Moody, of Moody Yachts the UK's largest producer of big sailing

boats — said: "The good summer didn't do us any harm but it probably helped sales of power boats more." The show runs until January 14.

PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

# Tycoon deceived 'to win publicity for share sale'

Maxwell trial

ROBERT Maxwell tried to "deceive" the City into thinking he had made a profit selling shares he owned — but which really belonged to his pension funds — for publicity, an Old Bailey jury was told yesterday.

The Chinese have broken out in his second day summing-up in the eight-month Maxwell trial, told jurors Kevin Maxwell had testified that his father transferred shares in Teva, an Israeli pharmaceutical firm, to the private Robert Maxwell Group (RMG).

According to Kevin Maxwell's evidence, Robert Maxwell told his son that ownership of the shares had been transferred from the pension funds on October 30, 1991 — six days before the tycoon's mysterious death at sea.

Kevin Maxwell had thought it legally possible for his

father to transfer the shares, whether by agreement with another director of RMG, or even if he had "secretly agreed to do so with himself in his head". But Judge Phillips said Maxwell would not have been legally allowed to do this, and said no evidence had emerged of an agreement with another RMG director.

He said Kevin had referred to a meeting with his father in which Robert said he would sell the shares through RMG rather than through Bishopsgate Investment Management (BIM) — the pension fund manager — because it would be good publicity.

Recalling a reference in a previous Maxwell press release to "Maxwell's BID", the judge added: "Basically, members of the jury, the intention was to deceive those who read about the sale into thinking that RMG had made a big profit. The press release would suggest that RMG had owned the shares throughout."

It would have been a deceptive press release. Well,

the Maxwells were not too fussed about the precise accuracy in their press releases."

Kevin Maxwell denies conspiring with his late father to defraud Maxwell pension funds by misusing £100 million worth of shares in the Israeli printing equipment company Scitex.

On the second charge, he jointly denies with his brother Ian, and former Maxwell financial adviser Larry Trachtenberg, conspiring to defraud pension funds by misusing 25 million Teva shares.

Earlier, the seven women and five men were told that Alun Jones, Kevin Maxwell's QC, went "a little over the top" in defending his client.

Mr Jones had criticised the Crown for failing to produce witnesses prepared to testify on the transfer of ownership of shares alleged to have been misused. Judge Phillips said Mr Jones was a "spirited advocate" but he "sometimes gets carried away".

The judge continues summing up today.

# Forte challenges Granada claim

News in brief

GRANADA, already under pressure from City institutions to increase its £3.3 billion bid for Forte, was yesterday pressed by the hotels group to expand on its claim to be able to boost profits by £100 million in its first year of control.

Forte, which on Tuesday unveiled plans for a sharply increased dividend and promised an £80 million share buy-back programme, challenged Granada's assertion that there were substantial savings to be made from closing its head office in High Holborn where 290 staff work.

Forte's chairman and chief executive, Sir Rocco Forte, said that if Granada made the cuts it was proposing, it was not clear who would take the role of worldwide sales and marketing, managing the hotel brands or control individual operations.

Speculating that Granada risked being left with individ-

ual hotel managers undercutting each other for business, he said: "It is true Granada provided shareholders with substance, not sound bites."

Granada refused to react to Sir Rocco's remarks, insisting he was simply "rehashing" previous comments.

Meanwhile, there was speculation in the City that several of Granada's institutional shareholders are pressing the group to let its original bid lapse and to bid instead for Forte's restaurant business, which the group has pledged to sell to Whitbread for £1 billion.

However, although it is still thought more likely that Granada will lift its original bid, analysts have warned that an increase of between 10 and 15 per cent will be needed to have a good chance of winning.

Granada shares closed up 3 3/4p at 663p last night, lifting the cash and paper value of its offer to 329p — against Forte's closing price last night of 342 1/2p.

# Talks over British Airways access to Beijing stall

Keith Harper  
Transport Editor

THE political row between Britain and China over Hong Kong has led to a breakdown in sensitive commercial talks over increased access for British Airways to Beijing.

The Chinese have broken out in talks after the Hong Kong authorities, acting under instructions from the British Government, refused to allow Chinese aircraft landing rights at Hong Kong.

The talks collapsed after the British insisted that the Chinese could only have overlying rights at the colony.

During the talks, the Chinese made several concessions which British Airways would have been happy to accept. The most important was a doubling of British Airways' flights from Britain to Beijing to four a week. BA had been

looking for a better deal, but accepts that the Chinese hold most of the cards.

There is still time for a deal to be completed, although it may need the intervention of the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind.

The opening of Hong Kong's new airport on nearby Lantau Island at Chek Lap Kok, which will replace the old and cramped Kai Tak next year, makes an agreement all the more urgent.

The new airport will provide much needed extra capacity, enhancing its position as a focal point for the rest of the China and south-east Asia.

British businessmen are furious that commercial interests continue to be put behind the Government's insistence on the best possible political solution for Hong Kong when the Chinese take over next year.

British Airways suffers in comparison with other European airlines, notably Lufthansa.

The German airline has no got the added Hong Kong problem, and has been more adept at playing the power business game with the Chinese.

The presence of Chancellor Helmut Kohl on several business delegations has helped Germany to pull off significant deals in the face of British competition.

Airline travel in the region is expected to double over the next 10 years.

A recent British delegation to China was told that the country was planning to build 25 new airports by 2002. Most of these are in cities with populations of more than one million.

British Airways, in common with other large airlines, is concerned that it must be in a position to compete, and that it must increase its presence in Beijing.

# £64.6m boost for Llanwern steel plant

News in brief

BRITISH STEEL is set to inaugurate a second continuous caster at its Llanwern plant in South Wales in a £64.6 million project which will see the group create new jobs for the first time since the late 1970s. About 150 new staff have been employed to work the caster, which is in the process of being commissioned 63 days ahead of schedule and will boost output from Llanwern from 2.2 million to three million tonnes a year.

The company has rationalised relentlessly since the late 1970s when total employment stood at 250,000, compared with under 50,000 today. The new caster, costing £23 million, has partly been made from salvaged components from the Ravenscraig steel works in Scotland which was closed five years ago with the loss of thousands of jobs.

In addition, £23 million has been spent on relining Llanwern's second blast furnace and £18.4 million has been invested in a new fume extraction plant. — Simon Beavis

ual hotel managers undercutting each other for business, he said: "It is true Granada provided shareholders with substance, not sound bites."

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# Santer backs EMU progress

News in brief

EUROPEAN Commission president Jacques Santer said in a BBC radio interview that any attempt to push back the timetable for European Monetary Union was "unacceptable". He said EMU was "on track", and between seven and nine European Union states would be ready to participate in the single European currency in January 1999. "We will be looking in 1996 to see how we can make strong relations between member states who join monetary union. We have to find solutions."

Mr Santer said an extension of qualified majority voting, opposed by the UK, should be adopted at the inter-governmental conference in March. It should opt for "wholesale reform in many areas. Like in the common foreign and security policy, and some extension of qualified majority voting in certain areas to make the EU work more efficiently." — Exchange Telegraph

ual hotel managers undercutting each other for business, he said: "It is true Granada provided shareholders with substance, not sound bites."

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# Scientists chew over fruit pastille recipe

Marvin Wainwright

RISKING defiance of the adage "If it ain't broke, don't fix it", scientists are trying to crack the 150-year-old mystery of the Rowntree's fruit pastille.

The suckable mixture of gelatin, starch and flavoured-gum, first stirred by mid-19th century Quakers, is the subject of a £750,000 research project, half-financed by the ministry of agriculture.

The sweets will be examined at York University by biologists working with staff from the Rowntree-Nestlé research centre at the city's chocolate factory. They will consider how polymers in the traditional recipe separate and then re-form into an elas-

tic gel, a process governed, up to now, by inherited custom, practice and error.

The move signals a willingness by Nestlé to risk some of the mystique of sweet-making (tours of the factory bypass the workshop where Smarties receive their inexplicably tough shells). The balance of the research bill is being paid by a consortium including Unilever and gelatine-making companies, whose products will benefit.

The pastilles have never been toppled as Britain's favourite fruity sweet, but Dr Steve Whitehouse, senior scientist at Nestlé, said it was no longer satisfactory to be in ignorance about how the texture was achieved. "We are not looking to change the fruit pastille but any product

is forever under review with the aim of improving it."

Dr Rukana Ahsyehera of York University said: "An understanding of how and why the components react is essential in maintaining the quality of the pastilles as the process changes — as it must change so that it can compete successfully."

The polymer findings, commissioned under the Government's Link scheme for university/business co-operation, will help a range of foods relying on the chemical transformation into chewiness. But confectionery industry sceptics believe that most strides have come from inspiration — like the muddled samples of a Basset's salesman offered to customers as liqueur "allsorts".

# Mobiles switch-off

News in brief

THE forecast mobile phones bonanza in the period before Christmas failed to materialise. The industry had been expecting to beat last year's record 400,000 sales figure but results so far have been disappointing. Orange yesterday reported net sales of £9,000 in December, taking its customer base to 380,000. It estimated that the month were about 202,000.

Vodafone recently announced it had added 57,000 customers last month while its rival Cellnet did rather better, signing up 88,000 new subscribers. Mercury One-2-One is believed to have fared badly. Potential customers have been discouraged by the total annual cost of owning digital phones which have been heavily promoted by the industry. — Nicholas Bannister

# Inchcape sells premises

News in brief

INCHCAPE, the troubled services and marketing group, is to sell headquarters of its Hong Kong-based vehicle distribution Pacific Century Group, for HK\$75 million (£56 million) to the announcement and closed up 8p at 261p. The company said it would use the money from the sale to reduce debt and buy new premises for Crown Motors, which distributes Toyota cars in Hong Kong. — Bloomberg

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سكا من الامل



Tennis Crooked Croat survives

GORAN IVANISEVIC beat Wayne Ferreira in a clash of crooked rackets...

Through Croatia lost 2-1 to South Africa, Ivanisevic's 6-4, 8-3 win...

Ivanisevic overcame a bout of food poisoning to overcome Ferreira...

Switzerland took an unbeatable lead against the Netherlands...



Teen wolf... Martina Hingis happily survived an onslaught of big serves yesterday to beat Brenda Schultz-McCarthy...

Racing Lammtarra rated best in Europe

LAMMTARRA has been officially rated the best horse in Europe...

Despite the treble, previously achieved by Mill Reef 22 years ago, Lammtarra is judged to be 11lb inferior to Dancing Brave...

However, achievement is not synonymous with ability, and Lammtarra had to fight hard to win his three races...

Lammtarra is rated 11lb superior to Northern Spur...

Having given Bahri the benefit of a length in the Arc and Northern Spur by a neck in the Breeders' Cup Turf...

On testing ground, Willie Carson had the enterprise to take Bahri to the outer rail for the first half of the race...

The handicappers accept that Ridgewood Pearl was below her best that day and point to a 12-length defeat of the fifth home, Bishop of Cashel...

ately after the race Bahri was rated at 131, up 6lb from the 125 he earned from his impressive success in the St James's Palace Stakes...

Handicappers across the Atlantic tend to assess horses on the overall balance of their form, rather than on a single performance...

One reason that three-year-olds are finding it harder to earn elevated ratings is that the quality of opposition from their elders has been diminished in recent years...

Not doubt, though, about the best horse in the world - Cigar with a rating of 152. In his two final races at Belmont he ran on a wet track, which did not suit him ideally...

Racing is dynamic, and it is impossible to compare horses from one generation to another. One reason that three-year-olds are finding it harder to earn elevated ratings is that the quality of opposition from their elders has been diminished in recent years...

Newcastle card with guide to the form

Table of race results for Newcastle, including race numbers, names, and winners.

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Towcester runners and riders

Table of race results for Towcester, including race numbers, names, and winners.

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Southwell all-weather programme

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Results

Table of race results for various tracks, including race numbers, names, and winners.

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EMU progress

ch-off

EMU progress

EMU progress

Advertisement for RACELINE featuring Kim Bailey and a list of phone numbers for various locations.



Soccer

# Lake finally loses five-year battle

David Hopps on how injury yesterday claimed a career which promised so much

**P**AUL LAKE, widely feted as potentially one of the finest players of his generation, confirmed his retirement yesterday to end one of the most prolonged and courageous battles against injury in the history of the game.

Fourteen knee operations in five years represented extraordinary will-power as Lake strove to rebuild a career that had been forecast for stardom. "All I ever wanted to do was pull on the blue shirt of Manchester City just one more time," he said yesterday. Forecasts over Christmas, though, of a 15th operation finally broke his resolve.

Lake made his City debut in 1987 at Wimbledon. Three years later his knee first collapsed in an early-season



All to play for... a fresh-faced Paul Lake eagerly awaits his debut for Manchester City at Wimbledon in 1987

match against Aston Villa. Tony Casciaro lost the ball and Lake twisted away "on a mazy run" but slipped and then experienced the pain that was to become his constant companion. At the time the specialist who studied the X-ray diagnosed a minor twist and told him he would be back in a fortnight.

Howard Kendall was City's manager at the time. "It is not just Manchester City's loss, it is England's as well, because he would have been captain of his country for years," Kendall, now in charge at Sheffield United, said yesterday. "He was on the verge of the England team when he was injured and I'm sure he would have been there to this day."

Two years later the knee slipped again at Middlesbrough. Peter Reid,

by then in charge at Maine Road, supported Lake's wish to follow the example of Rangers' Ian Durrant by having innovative surgery in the United States. Lake was soon rehabilitating again, with the help of donor medial and cruciate ligaments from two dead Americans, and a full recovery was forecast.

"The specialist in America warned me that he couldn't guarantee anything," Lake said. "By that stage too much damage had been done. My knee just continued to swell and swell again."

At full-back, central defence, midfield or even striker, Lake had possessed both poise and presence and had been called into Bobby Robson's provisional England squad for the 1990 World Cup. He himself traces his clipped-out knee back to too much football in his teenage years. If so, there can rarely have been more damning evidence of the dangers of excessive physical demands on young sportsmen and women.

Lake had signed a five-year contract, and as the years progressed he demanded the same loyalty from City that he had shown to them many times when I thought about packing it in," he said. "But every day I would think that there would come a time when perhaps the pain would become unbearable. I love putting my boots on more than anything in the world."

He did recover enough last season to play a handful of A-team matches in the Lancashire League, wearing a knee support and fearing the first side-on clattering tackle. Even then he believed he would be back.

Instead he has enrolled at college for a physiotherapy course. As Roy Bailey, City's physio, said: "With his experience of rehabilitation techniques, he would be a great asset to any club. It's remarkable how he has kept going."

## Clubs in rush for Rush

Ian Ross

**I**AN RUSH is to be offered the chance to finish his illustrious career in the First Division. Sunderland and Sheffield United are attempting to woo the 34-year-old Liverpool striker.

Rush, who was recently awarded the MBE, will be out of contract at the end of the season and has yet to be offered a new deal by his club. Although Liverpool's manager Roy Evans is anxious that he remains at Anfield for at least the next 18 months, some influential members of the club's hierarchy are believed to be ready to sanction his sale.

If Rush does not agree a new contract he will be a free

agent by summer. But if Liverpool were to sell him before the end of May they could still expect to collect about £700,000.

Howard Kendall's attempt to lure Rush to Sheffield United represents his fifth move for the Welsh international in the past decade.

Ruud Gullit's unflattering assessment of the talent available to English clubs has met with some argument. Chelsea's Dutchman, in the course of comparing the Premiership unfavourably with Serie A, told a Rome newspaper: "There are not many here I would consider for Italy, although I like the look of Giggs, Ferdinand and Fowler."

"It seems a bit of a harsh judgment," said Darren An-

derston, the Tottenham and England midfielder, "but I don't personally feel insulted. He probably hasn't even seen me play yet."

"Foreign players find it hard going into English football, which is very technical, but it can be very demanding coming here too," said Bryan Roy, the Nottingham Forest and Holland forward. "That's not just because of the extra pace in the game in England. There are a lot of very gifted players as well."

England, who are without a game until Bulgaria visit Wembley on March 27, have arranged two midweek training sessions for the interim: at Bisham from January 22 to 25 and at the Aston Villa training ground from February 12 to 15.

## Burns confident of keeping Collins at Celtic

Patrick Glenn

**T**OMMY BURNS, the Celtic manager, will in the next week take pre-emptive steps against the possible break-up of his promising squad by offering his Scotland midfielder John Collins a new contract.

Collins has hinted since the start of the season that he is unlikely to renew an agreement which expires at the end of June. But Burns, who had appeared likely to be a willing seller at the right price, yesterday sensed a change in circumstances.

"He's been here 3 1/2 years," said Burns, "and it is possibly only now that we are playing the style of football that suits him. We make it our business to make sure he has the

best offer possible, but in the football sense he will get all he needs here. He can fulfil himself."

"I sense a difference in John's attitude to his future and I'm sure the way things are going with the team has something to do with it."

"I've already spoken to his agent and I would like to think that, in the next week, movement will take place."

Celtic's improvement this season, making them genuine challengers for Rangers' championship, will certainly have influenced Collins. But neither he nor his agent should mistake Burns' willingness to talk for desperation to re-sign him.

Collins is unlikely to command anything like the reputed £8,000 a week of Cel-

tic's German striker Andreas Thoma, and if his demands are outrageous Burns will allow him to go. A few months ago Middlesbrough made two concrete offers, both rejected.

The craziest booking of Paul Gascoigne's career will stay against his name, the Scottish FA confirmed yesterday.

Gascoigne was booked in Rangers' 7-0 win over Hibernian last Saturday after jokingly showing the yellow card to the referee, Dougie Smith, who had dropped it. Smith's report to the SFA is believed to accuse the midfielder of "ungentlemanly conduct."

The SFA said: "There is no right of appeal against a caution or a sending-off, so the booking stands. It will carry one disciplinary point."



Back on home soil... Mike Marsh is happy with life in Southend PHOTOGRAPH FRANK BARON

# Marsh relishes return to his second home

FA CUP PROFILE: Paul Weaver on the much-travelled Southend midfielder who faces a former club, West Ham, tomorrow

**F**OOTBALL people are not renowned for their Columbus-like instinct for geography. When Mickey Thomas suffered homesickness shortly after signing for Brighton he explained that he did not realise Sussex was such a long way from his native Wales.

When Gordon Lee, in Tunisia, was asked what he thought of Africa the former Everton manager's jaw dropped and he replied, lamely: "Bloody hell, we're not in Africa, are we?" He once nominated Ajax as the strongest club in Belgium and in the middle of a particularly harsh winter suggested that Everton should take a mid-season break in Norway.

Mike Marsh, rather like Thomas, complained of homesickness shortly after moving from Liverpool to West Ham two years ago. So he moved, via Coventry, to Turkey. But provided his compass is set correctly this talented midfielder, who like many others has seen his career afflicted by managerial changes, will return to Upton Park tomorrow in the FA Cup, this time playing for Southend, whose manager Ronnie Whelan, another former Anfield man, signed him early this season.

Marsh had signed for West Ham in a triangular deal which also brought David Burrows to the east London club while Julian Dicks moved in the opposite direction.

"To be fair, I only came on a sending-off, so the booking stands. It will carry one disciplinary point."

I had been with the club for over six years, although more than three of those had been spent in the reserves. I am one of seven kids, all Liverpool-based, and my wife Sharon is one of six and from the same area so our roots in that part of the country go pretty deep. And Liverpool folk always feel very strongly about the place."

Marsh played for West Ham for 15 months before, after the quick stop at Coventry, he rejoined his old Liverpool manager Graeme Souness at Galtysaray.

"It will be good to go back to West Ham because I have some very good memories of the place and in Ian Bishop, Keith Rowland and Burrows had some very good friends there. In fact I should never have left."

"Going to Coventry was a



Whelan... Anfield link

big mistake. Phil Neal signed me but then Ron Atkinson came along with different ideas and we never saw eye to eye. I only played three league games there, which is why I took the chance of going to Turkey."

Marsh had made an impression in the West Ham of Billy Bonds and was a regular in the side until Harry Redknapp took charge. "I played all over the park. Then I found myself fighting for a place with six other central-midfield players. It seemed to boil down to a contest between Bishop, Moncur and myself and three into two won't go. And I'd already played enough reserve-team football at Anfield."

"But now I feel disappointed that I didn't give myself a better chance at West Ham. It's a great club with a really good feel about the place. But the lads at Southend feel confident. West Ham had a great run before Christmas and even got into the top half but they've struggled a bit in the last two weeks."

"Things have gone really well at Southend. The First Division is more rough-and-tumble than the Premiership, where the style of play is more relaxed but also more clinical. Premiership football is what I'm really looking at because at 26 I'm at or very nearly at my peak."

Marsh has conquered his homesickness but his heart is never far away from the Mersey. "Liverpool will always be the team for me. I always got on well with Souness when I was there. I was sub when we won the FA Cup in 1992. But knowing Graeme as I do I think he has a few regrets. He bought a lot of players and I never really worked out. Marsh knows the feeling."

Rugby Union

# Wales opt for Cobner

David Plummer

**T**ERRY COBNER was yesterday named as the Welsh Rugby Union's first director of rugby on a four-year contract worth £200,000 and admitted that Wales were slumped in international rugby's last chance saloon.

Cobner, who is 50 next Wednesday, will start work next month after finishing as a teacher at Oundle School. He will head a new department, which includes the full-time Wales coach Kevin Bowring, from offices that are being built at the Caerleon Institute of Higher Education.

Cobner, who captained Wales in the 1970s, acknowledged that he faced one of the toughest tasks in world rugby. His brief will be to refine the supply line into the national squad, concentrating significantly on rugby at the under-19 level.

Bowring has responsibility for selecting and preparing the national sides at senior level but he will answer to Cobner, who believes that Wales's problems stem from an inability to make use of possession.

"Set pieces in Wales are adequate," he said. "What we are not doing is setting things up from there. Players need to be more comfortable with the ball in the hands. There needs to be more pace and intensity to our game, and I want to quickly get together with the coaches of clubs in the top two divisions."



Cobner... tough task

"We will only get better as a nation if we work together and I believe we only have four years to do it. If we are a third-world rugby nation after the 1999 World Cup, then I cannot see any way back for us. But we have what it takes as a nation to be great again."

Bowring will announce his side to face Italy in Cardiff on January 16 next Tuesday.

● Graham Shiel, of Melrose and Scotland, has signed for Leicester. The 25-year-old centre, who has 15 caps, is not expected to move south until next season.

● Wasps have successfully appealed to the Rugby Football Union to postpone their rearranged Courage league home encounter with West Hartlepool tomorrow week. No new date has been fixed for the match, which was abandoned last November when a spectator suffered a heart attack.

## Referees split on match fees

Ian Malin

**R**EFEREEs should be paid as much as England's players, it was claimed yesterday. Robert Horner, the chairman of the referees sub-committee, said that officials at international level should be given pay parity with Will Carling's professional squad, who are receiving £2,000 for each Test this season.

"I would like to see the referees in Five Nations matches get the same as England players," he said.

"A referee should be treated in a similar vein. We always say that the referee is the 31st player."

However, Horner admitted that if international referees, currently receiving only travel expenses, were to treat a match fee they would lose out on perks, such as being able to take partners on expenses-paid trips to away internationals. And he said that a poll on the issue among England's leading referees was split, with 31 in favour of receiving payments and 30 against.

## Europe comes second - Holmes

David Plummer on the former Cardiff star turned coach

**A**S A player, Terry Holmes was of the no-nonsense school. Hard and direct, he never had any time for excuses. As a coach he has kept the same mould. He does not subscribe to the Alex Ferguson theory that your team is never beaten, only hard done by.

On Sunday, five weeks after he took over from Alex Evans as Cardiff's coaching organiser, his club will look to make history by becoming the first team to lift the Heineken European Cup when they take on Toulouse at the National Stadium.

Cardiff's success in Europe has coincided with a slump in their league form. Though the champions still lead the First Division, last month they lost four matches to Newport and Bridgend, teams well below them in the table.

Cardiff had rested players in between European contests, but to Holmes there was no excuse for the failures. "We run a squad system and players who come into the team are expected to perform," he said.

"We lost to Newport and Bridgend not because we fielded weakened sides but because the performances were nowhere near good enough. The Heineken Cup is a welcome addition to the fixture list because it adds variety, and we are desperate to win it, but the league comes first."

"If players complain about the pressure of fixtures they should not be in the game at this level. Europe cannot be a distraction from the league. Players have to learn to cope with the demands of professionalism. That, in my view, means not complaining but getting on with it."

Europe will be even tougher next season when the English clubs come in.

Holmes captained Cardiff in 1984-85, when he also led Wales, before he turned professional with Bradford Northern. The scrum-half would have won considerably more than his 25 union caps but for two serious injuries, and when he was allowed to return to union he helped coach Cardiff in order to put something back into rugby.

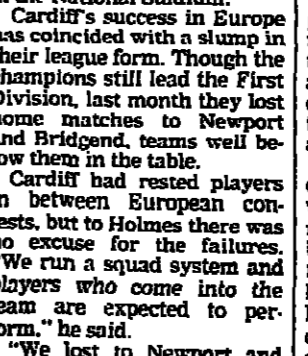
"I had a terrific career as a player, and coaching offered me the chance to put something back. I learned a huge amount from Alex Evans, as did the players, and he turned the fortunes of Cardiff around."

"Our job now to build on that and ensure that his work was not in vain. Winning the Heineken Cup would be a start, but we also have to retain the championship. We have won two trophies in the last two seasons, but for a Cardiff side that should only be regarded as the beginning."

"We have done well to reach Sunday's final. Two of our three matches have been away and we were in the toughest pool. The players have shown a lot of character but they cannot regard the league as something inferior. They have to maintain a high standard every week, not just every now and then."

Cardiff will field the side that defeated Leinster last week, which means no place for the Wales wing Nigel Walker, with Jonathan Davies remaining on the bench. "Our second-half display then was our most controlled of the season but we will have to step up a gear against Toulouse," said Holmes.

"With so many Welsh internationals in our side [24], the game offers Cardiff the chance to provide a huge boost for Welsh rugby, two months before France come to Cardiff in the Five Nations."



Holmes... no excuses

Boxing

# King denies dumping McClellan

Jack Massarik

**D**ON KING has been accused of turning his back on Gerald McClellan, who was dismissed in losing to Britain's Nigel Benn for the World Boxing Council super-middleweight title in London last February.

Neurosurgeons saved the 28-year-old American's life but there was irreversible brain damage and he is now blind. King claims he is taking care of the medical bills, but one of McClellan's three sisters, Lisa, disputes this.

"That is not true," she said yesterday during a telephone news conference that deteriorated into a shouting match. "We take money out of Gerald's personal account to pay for his expenses."

McClellan has needed round-the-clock care by his

sisters since returning to their Preoprt, Illinois home in August, she said. "He thinks it is always night-time. He wonders why he is not training. He thinks he is going to fight again."

His sisters and other possessions were being sold to help meet his expenses, she added.

King and his British partner Frank Warren deny neglect. "Up until now Frank Warren and I have borne the brunt of his medical costs," declared King, who supplied figures. These included £58,000 for the private air-ambulance that flew McClellan back to the United States and nearly £36,000 in hotel and travel expenses for members of McClellan's family who remained in London while he lay in hospital for six weeks.

"I will do whatever I can do. I will not deal with Lisa McClellan; she goes off the

deep end," said King, who suspects that the FBI is trying to frame him, as McClellan's estranged father claims.

"I swear to God that I've never been offered any money by the FBI," said Lisa. Either way, King could do with less investigative attention at the moment; he faces retrial soon on insurance-fraud charges involving Lloyd's of London.

● The normally impassive Dennis Andries had to be restrained yesterday when confronted by Terry Dunstan, who dethroned him as British cruiserweight champion last May. Frank Warren hastily stepped in as the two men squared up to each other at a London news conference to announce their rematch.

"Sit down and behave yourselves," Warren ordered them. "Save it for the night."

When Dunstan was awarded the points decision

in Glasgow, Andries, three times WBC light-heavyweight champion, stalked out of the ring in disgust, but they meet again at the London Arena on February 10 on a bill headed by Naseem Hamed, who defends the WBO world featherweight title against Arnulfo Castillo of Mexico.

"When the smoke clears, only one man will be left standing and that will be me," said Andries, the "Rock of Ages" who claims to be 42 but could be as old as 50.

● Henry Wharton has a new opponent for his European super-middleweight title defence in Halifax a week tomorrow. The Frenchman Frederic Seillier has withdrawn and his replacement, Vincenzo Nardiello of Italy, should give Wharton an easier night; Seillier, Nigel Benn and Ray Cooney of Northern Ireland have all stopped him.

Snooker

# O'Sullivan is back

Clive Everton

**R**ONNIE O'SULLIVAN put aside the memory of three first-round defeats before Christmas to beat David Roe 5-2 yesterday and reach the quarter-finals of the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge.

O'Sullivan began the season third in the world rankings but has seen the game's other outstanding 20-year-old, John Higgins, who eliminated the reigning No. 1 Stephen Hendry 5-1 on Wednesday, flash past him. Yesterday, however, O'Sullivan wrapped up victory with a 77 break and he has shown welcome signs that he is starting to settle again.

"This is an invitation event, albeit of high quality, so there are no world ranking points at stake at Birmingham's Inter-

national Convention Centre this week, but a prize-fund of £150,000 is no irrelevance and a further win over the world No. 8 Darren Morgan today would further restore O'Sullivan's confidence.

Ken Doherty, beaten by Higgins in last month's German Open final, reached the last eight yesterday by beating the 1985 world champion Dennis Taylor 5-3, taking the clinching frame after needing three snookers.

● The women's world champion Karen Corr, made a break of 77 to complete a 5-0 win over Mario Wehrmann, one of Holland's best players, to reach the fourth round of the qualifying competition of the Embassy World Championship at Blackpool. She needs to win seven more matches to qualify for the 32-person televised phase at Sheffield in the spring.



Holmes... no excuses

صكتا من الامه





Cricket

Matthew Engel on the technology which helped South Africa make a decisive breakthrough and which compromised the umpire

# A right decision but not cricket

**W**HEN the Test match ended, the photographers clustered round the triumphant South Africa batsmen. Ahead of them, Mike Atherton ran into the pavilion, unnoticed.

He was probably only going for a pee. But several minutes elapsed before he returned for the presentation. Only then could Hansie Cronje tap him on the shoulder in a gesture of sympathetic comradeship. Close-ups might provide more detailed evidence but, from a distance, there was no visible response.

Some time in the future, a keen post-graduate student in corporeal linguistics at the University of Ashton-in-Makerfield or somewhere will sift through the videotape for a thesis entitled *Meaningful Slurs: Mike Atherton's Body Language as England Captain, 1993 to whenever*.

The whenever is not yet on the horizon. Atherton managed to compose himself extremely well for a graceful concessionary speech (like most of his recent pre-

decessors, he is in practice) and some moderately positive remarks later.

He could not quite bring himself to say anything kindly about Devon Malcolm, whose horrendous failure with the new ball on Wednesday settled his Test as certainly as his brilliant defiance defeated South Africa at The Oval 16 months ago. "We had a bowler who was fresh, who had bowled 10 overs in the day with the new ball and a rabbit at the crease. You can draw your own conclusions." It is a sad way for anyone to disappear.

Some South Africans have argued, absurdly, that Atherton's negativity has cost England the series. It is amazing that anyone can read a Test series so wrongly. If the British in the first world war were lions led by donkeys, they Test series has come perilously close to representing the reverse.

The better side won, and though tiny shifts of luck might just have changed the result, up-against-it visiting teams have never had the luck in Test cricket. The paucity of neutral-

country umpires, match referees and television replays was supposed to deal with that and introduce a little more fairness. Yesterday's events showed how it is failing to work.

Three years ago the South Africans introduced the system of third umpires and TV replays. Some of us opposed it on the ground that it was an affront to the cricketing convention that the umpire's word was final; and that it would institutionalise argument with the umpires. So it has proved.

Graham Taylor noted that Hansie Cronje's dissent yesterday over the Graham Thorpe dismissal would have got him sent off a football field. In cricket, which is supposed to have higher standards, he was fined 550 measly quid, which is nothing.

Orchard's original decision was both crass (in his refusal to call for the third umpire in the first place) and wrong (since Thorpe should have been given out). What was awful, though, was the way this particular Orchard bent before the breeze.

South African grounds do not have video screens for the crowd's benefit, but a couple of hundred TV screens in executive boxes and exclusive bars proclaimed the same message. Cronje heard the roar and complained. So Orchard consulted his colleague, Steve Randell. So he changed his mind and signalled for the TV replay. And so Thorpe went.

Clive Lloyd fined Cronje very apologetically. He also called for an expansion of the replay system to adjudicate on other close decisions, such as the faint nick that accounted for Robin Smith. "I don't see what's wrong with that. We have the technology, so why not use it?" Bob Woolmer, the South Africa coach, supported him. "Any close decision should go straight to the technology."

Well, fine. We also have the technology to play the whole game as a computer Test in cyberspace. But no one would pretend the result would be cricket. What Cronje and Orchard perpetrated, and what Woolmer and Lloyd want, is not cricket either.

Final scoreboard

ENGLAND		ENGLAND	
First Innings	113	Second Innings	187
W.A. Atherton c Richardson b Donald 10		M.A. Atherton c Richardson b Donald 7	
A.C. Smith b Donald 1		A.C. Smith b Donald 1	
G.P. Thorpe c McDonald b Donald 12		G.P. Thorpe c McDonald b Donald 12	
G.A. Hick c McDonald b Donald 20		G.A. Hick c McDonald b Donald 20	
M. Watson c McDonald b Donald 2		M. Watson c McDonald b Donald 2	
M. Watson b Donald 11		M. Watson b Donald 11	
P.J. Martin c Donald b Donald 5		P.J. Martin c Donald b Donald 5	
P.C. Fraser not out 5		P.C. Fraser not out 5	
Extras (lb, wt, nb) 10		Extras (lb, wt, nb) 12	
Total (52.5 overs)	183	Total (52.5 overs)	187
Fall of wickets: 0, 24, 58, 60, 100, 115, 141, 141, 151.		Fall of wickets: 15, 22, 22, 66, 138, 140, 142, 145, 152.	
South Africa 16-5-46-5; Pollack 16-4-32-2; McKillop 10-3-32-1; Adams 10-3-32-2; Kallis 4-2-32-2; Cronje 4-4-0-0.		South Africa 16-5-46-5; Pollack 16-4-32-2; McKillop 10-3-32-1; Adams 10-3-32-2; Kallis 4-2-32-2; Cronje 4-4-0-0.	

Rugby League

Regal Trophy semi-final: St Helens 80, Warrington 0

# GoULDING'S grand for perfect Saints

**B**OB GOULDING started last night with 996 career points to his credit and it took Saints only six minutes to lay on the two conversion kicks that took him into four figures. He went on to give a dazzling individual display, scoring 24 points by converting 12 of the 14 tries that simply routed Wira.

The Test scrum-half was returning after a three-match suspension. Clearly refreshed, he inspired Saints as they smoothly clinched their places in the final against either Wigan or Leeds with a decisive interval lead of 38-0.

The Warrington pack had been unlucky to lose the talented young Paul Sculthorpe and the experienced Rolly Shefford, both of whom failed late fitness tests. But equally, Saints, who face an inquiry today into the weakened side they fielded on Boxing Day, were without three star players in Newlove, Sullivan, and Joynt. Not that anyone would have noticed.

Warrington were 18-0 down before all the latecomers were through the turnstiles, a crippling if largely self-inflicted deficit. The teenager Danny Arnold raced away for Saints' first try when Goulding and Busby had combined sweetly in a cross-field move — after a forward pass had lost Wira possession.

Two more scores followed in short order. A little inside pass in front of the Warrington posts created a half-gap

for Peraini but that was enough for the Western Samoa forward. Goulding's second goal gave him his 1,000 career points.

Another Warrington blunder was punished when Jones lost the ball in his own half. Saints took the scrum, moved the ball inside and Northey streaked through a gap.

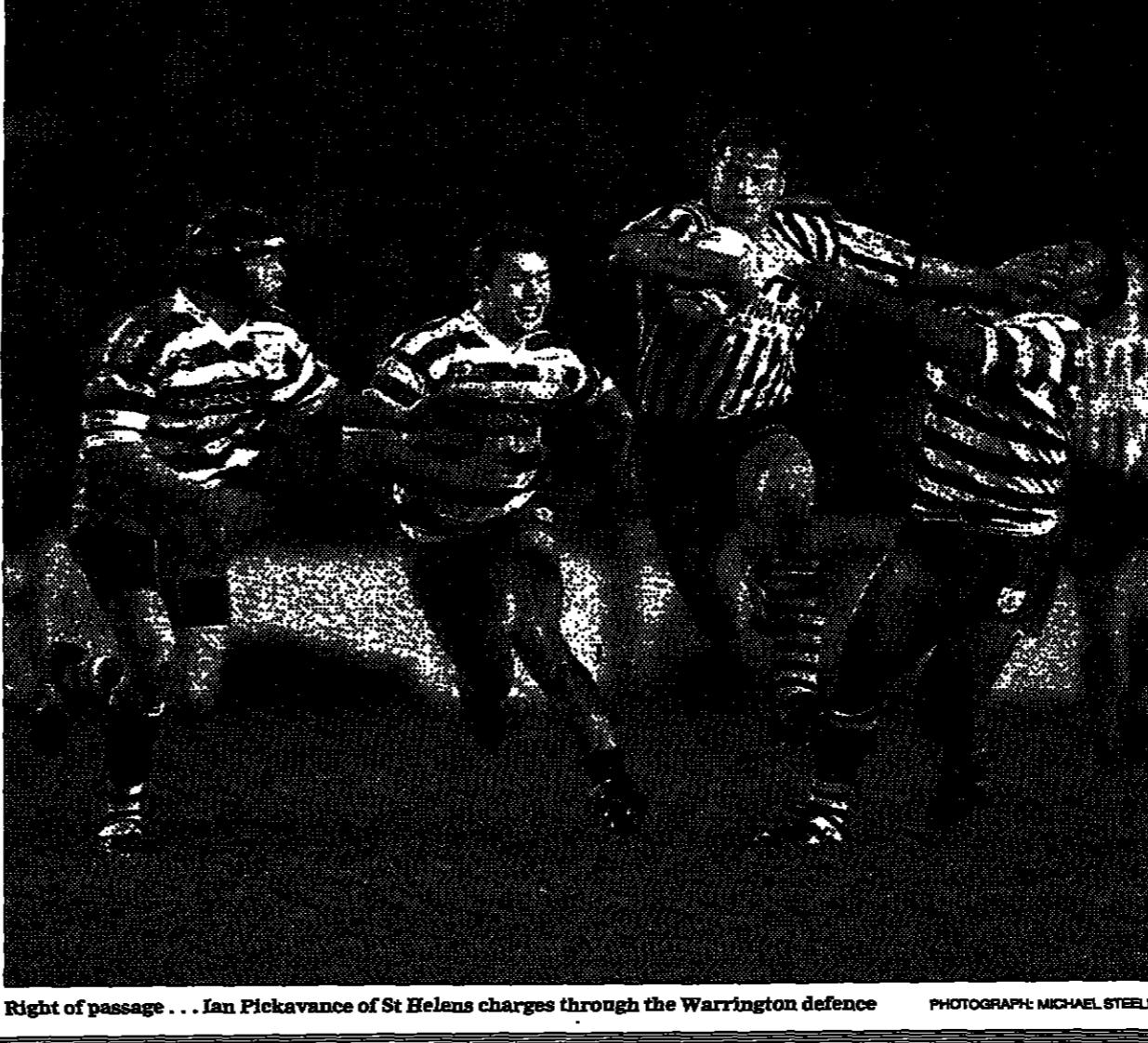
By the 17th minute, the Wire were 24-0 down. Again their defence was found wanting and Busby, prompted yet again by Goulding, crossed from short range.

To add to their woes, Wira wasted three good scoring chances. Currier's lovely break was spoiled by a careless inside pass; Knott spilled the ball a yard from Saints' line; and Harris looked certain to score when he broke free but the stand-off was not quite quick enough to resist Prescott's cover tackle.

Six minutes before the interval, Saints showed them how to finish clinically. Goulding mesmerised the defence once more, missed out a man, and sent Booth, who was on for Fogarty, clear through the gap for Pickavance to go over for Saints' sixth try.

The second half began just as wretchedly for Wira, with Hammond going over within a minute. Northey got his second try three minutes later and then Arnold scored his second. From that point it was a regal massacre.

St Helens: Prescott; Hayes, Northey, Gibbs, Arnold; Hammond, Goulding; Fogarty, Currier, Peraini, Pickavance, Mautala, Busby. Warrington: Penny; Forster, Ruddle, Cunniff, Jones, Hogg, Hilt, Cullen, Bennett, Knott. Referee: R Smith (Castletown).



Right of passage... Ian Pickavance of St Helens charges through the Warrington defence

Motor Racing

# Stewart fuelled by Ford's £50m

**T**HE high-profile new partnership between Jackie Stewart's fledgling Grand Prix team and Ford for the 1997 season was officially announced yesterday at the Detroit Motor Show.

Stewart Grand Prix, as the team will be titled, have a five-year agreement, believed to be worth £50 million, for the exclusive use of Ford's Formula One engines and will take over supplies of the three-litre Zetec-R V16 when Ford's current contract with the Swiss-based Sauber team expires at the end of this year.

"This announcement will put an end to speculation concerning Ford's commitment to F1," said Stewart. "Ford is committed to raising the level of its involvement in the sport, and that commitment will be for the long term."

Stewart's new operation will be based at new premises in Milton Keynes where his son's team, Paul Stewart Racing, already has its headquarters. Stewart junior will be managing director and the existing Grand Prix and endurance team will wind down its involvement in other single-seater categories at the end of the coming season to concentrate exclusively on F1.

"This was a logical progres-

sion from the staircase of talent we've built at Paul Stewart Racing in the junior formulae," said Jackie Stewart, the former triple world champion.

"We're going into this with our eyes open and we don't expect in our first one or two seasons seriously to challenge the might of the established teams which have accumulated. But he added that it made an "enormous difference" to start with a partner such as Ford.

The first Stewart-Ford F1 car is expected to be ready to test by autumn. As yet it is not known who will lead the design team, but the British engineer Alan Jenkins, currently with the Arrows team — also based at Milton Keynes — is being tipped for the top job.

With the team's grand prix debut still over a year away, no decisions have been taken about possible drivers, but several names spring to mind. David Coulthard, Jan Magnussen and Dario Franchitti have all graduated with honours from the Stewart F1 academy and must be regarded as possible targets.

It is believed Ford's alliance with Stewart will be far more integrated and committed than any of the company's previous F1 involvements.

Sport in brief

Cricket

England Under-19s, with two one-day wins already behind them, look like maintaining their 100 per cent record in the three-day match in Harewood. They dismissed Ginoebwe Schols for 75 and reached 197 for five — Northamptonshire's David Sales making 74 and Nottinghamshire's Noel Gle 50 — to take a 122-run lead on the opening day.

Rugby League

A Boxing Day offence by Neil Cowie yesterday cost the Warrington pack a £200 fine and a one-match ban which rules him out of tomorrow's Regal Trophy semi-final against Leeds at Central Park. Better news for Wigan, the holders, is that their other Welsh prop Kelvin Skerrett is fit again after a foot injury.

Basketball

Kevin Cadie, whose London Towers team won all seven matches in December, has been named Budweiser Coach of the Month. Sheffield Sharks' England international forward Roger Huggins, who averaged 19 points a game, is Player of the Month.

Results

Rugby League

**REGAL TROPHY**  
Semi-final  
St Helens 80, Warrington 0. St Helens: Prescott; Hayes, Northey, Gibbs, Arnold; Hammond, Goulding; Fogarty, Currier, Peraini, Pickavance, Mautala, Busby. Warrington: Penny; Forster, Ruddle, Cunniff, Jones, Hogg, Hilt, Cullen, Bennett, Knott. Referee: R Smith (Castletown).

Tennis

**ATLANTIC CUP** (Port): Group A: Croatia 1, South Africa 2 (Croatia win); Group B: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win); Group C: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win); Group D: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win); Group E: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win); Group F: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win); Group G: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win); Group H: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win); Group I: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win); Group J: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win); Group K: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win); Group L: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win); Group M: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win); Group N: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win); Group O: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win); Group P: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win); Group Q: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win); Group R: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win); Group S: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win); Group T: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win); Group U: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win); Group V: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win); Group W: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win); Group X: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win); Group Y: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win); Group Z: Mexico 1, Mexico 2 (Mexico win).

Chess

Chess

**WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP** (London): Group A: Spassman 0, S. Alalik 1 (T); 1: T. Lauer (G); 2: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 3: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 4: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 5: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 6: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 7: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 8: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 9: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 10: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 11: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 12: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 13: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 14: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 15: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 16: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 17: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 18: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 19: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 20: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 21: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 22: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 23: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 24: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 25: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 26: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 27: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 28: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 29: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 30: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 31: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 32: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 33: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 34: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 35: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 36: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 37: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 38: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 39: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 40: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 41: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 42: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 43: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 44: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 45: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 46: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 47: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 48: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 49: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 50: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 51: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 52: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 53: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 54: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 55: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 56: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 57: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 58: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 59: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 60: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 61: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 62: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 63: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 64: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 65: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 66: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 67: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 68: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 69: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 70: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 71: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 72: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 73: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 74: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 75: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 76: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 77: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 78: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 79: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 80: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 81: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 82: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 83: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 84: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 85: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 86: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 87: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 88: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 89: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 90: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 91: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 92: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 93: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 94: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 95: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 96: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 97: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 98: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 99: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0; 100: K. Alalik 1, S. Alalik 0.

Ice Hockey

**BRITISH LEAGUE** (London): Group A: Blackburn 0, Doncaster 1; Group B: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1; Group C: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1; Group D: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1; Group E: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1; Group F: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1; Group G: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1; Group H: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1; Group I: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1; Group J: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1; Group K: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1; Group L: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1; Group M: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1; Group N: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1; Group O: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1; Group P: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1; Group Q: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1; Group R: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1; Group S: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1; Group T: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1; Group U: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1; Group V: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1; Group W: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1; Group X: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1; Group Y: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1; Group Z: Doncaster 0, Blackburn 1.

Squash

Banned Hill in a heap of trouble

**RICHARD JAGO**  
AN ANTHONY HILL has been suspended again, and he has more trouble brewing.

The world No. 8, who was fined for his part in the head-butting incident involving Mir Zaman Gul at the British Open 21 months ago, has been banned from the world circuit for three months and fined £11,000 by the Professional Squash Association (the players' union) after tangling with Jansher Khan during the World Open in Nicaragua in November.

Hill was reported to the PSA for repeated physical contact with the world champion, resulting in his being fined £400. Because this carried his total of fines to more than £1,000 within a three-year period the Australian was fined a mandatory extra £1,000 and suspended under the PSA's cumulative-offence regulations.

This is the second suspension of Hill's turbulent career and more may be on the way. He has also been reported to the PSA for his behaviour in Qatar in November, and the World Squash Federation will sit in judgment in nine days' time on the series of controversial incidents involving Hill in the semi-finals of the world team championships in Cairo seven weeks ago, when Hill was again his opponent.



## Extra time Away supporters put on the map

**T**HE rise in football attendances has been attributed to fewer hooligans, tastier pies, cleaner loos — anything except better football. The real reason is simpler: more people are getting to the grounds they set out for. The reason for that is simple, too: Football Fan's Guide (Collins, £12.99, £3.99 pb) by James Williams and Mark Johnson.

Once visiting fans just joined a stream of local cloth caps, bubbling to the ground on a stride of relief. Later, at a distance, they could follow the hooligan herd and its helmet escort. Now, seated and sanitised, grounds are lost in middle-class sophistication. The authors put them on the map with wit and detail.

They are a couple of Cambridge United nuts, self-confessed and so helpless that they know long journeys to desperate places. The book was conceived in Reading, but not at Elm Park: the fans could not find it. They were hooligans, field fans; Williams was "briefly in love with one," she confesses, "and Cambridge were playing on the Sunday at Blackpool". The subsequent search for "a really accurate, detailed guidebook" proved as fruitless as that for Elm Park. So Williams, who works for the BBC World Service, and Johnson produced one.

Starting in December 1993, they enlisted help from clubs, police, fans and fanzines and were gratified by massive co-operation. Only Barnsley and Burnley declined, because the book was "unofficial". Only Cardiff police refused information; and only they sent a

shuffle chess, where the pieces are arranged randomly at the back row for each game; a timeless test for the world title, with the winner the first to 10 games, draws not counting; and, if it reaches 9-9, Fischer keeps "his" title. Shuffle diplomacy may be called for.

**N**EW, high-visibility balls are being used on the Australian tennis circuit. They are particularly favoured under artificial lighting. The maker Slazenger says the balls have a different dye colour, made of a more fluorescent light than the standard optic yellow". The ball also reflects the alarm of the International Tennis Federation at the declining interest in the game on the television. The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games is installing 1,800 temporary toilets inside sporting venues, but city officials and a German manufacturer are deadlocked on precisely where outside, along regular pedestrian corridors, to put 10 public privies. Five more are planned after the Games for the city's homeless.

After more than a year in dispute legs are crossed.

**K**IRSAN ILYUMZHINOV, whose eccentricity was recognised last week as appropriate to his new post as president of Fide, the International Chess Federation, may have met his match already. Last month he flew to meet the American Bobby Fischer at his home in Budapest.

Fischer won the world title from Spassky in 1973, did not push a pawn in anger for 20 years, then emerged for a \$3 million rematch in Serbia. He and Ilyumzhinov's promise to pay \$100,000 back-royalties he claimed from Kasparov and Karpov as representatives of the defunct Soviet Chess Federation which, he alleges, pirated his book My 60 Memorable Games. Ilyumzhinov also gave Fischer lead to build a house in Kalmykia alongside the Pope's monastery and Suddam Hussein's mosque.

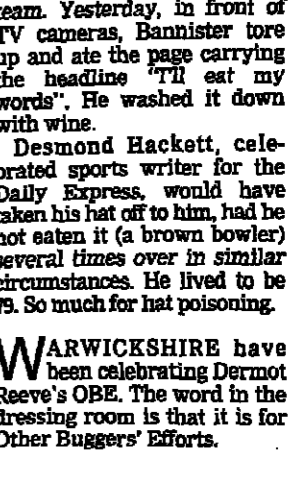
In return Fischer promised to "reconsider his position with Fide", whose president he was in 1975. He also insisted that Fide adopt his rules: matches decided by

Sixth column

**J**ACK BANNISTER honours a promise to eat the paper on which he wrote a column predicting defeat for South Africa in the Test series. A framed copy of it was taken round the changing rooms to motivate the team. Yesterday, in front of TV cameras, Bannister tore up and ate the paper carrying the headline "7/1 eat my words". He washed it down with wine.

Desmond Hackett, celebrated sports writer for the Daily Express, would have taken his hat off to him, had he not eaten it (a brown bowler) several times over in similar circumstances. He lived to be 75. So much for hat poisoning.

**W**ARWICKSHIRE have been celebrating Dermot Reeve's OBE. The word in the dressing room is that it is for Other Bugger's Efforts.



Reeve...effortless?



Lammtarra voted Europe's best, page 13  
Lake gives up struggle with injury, page 14

Cobner confirmed as Wales supremo, page 14  
Stewart unveils Formula One plans, page 15

# SportsGuardian

## SOUTH AFRICA TRIUMPH BUT CAPTAIN IS FINED FOR REPLAY DISSENT

South Africa v England: fifth Test, third day

# England's dismal roll-over

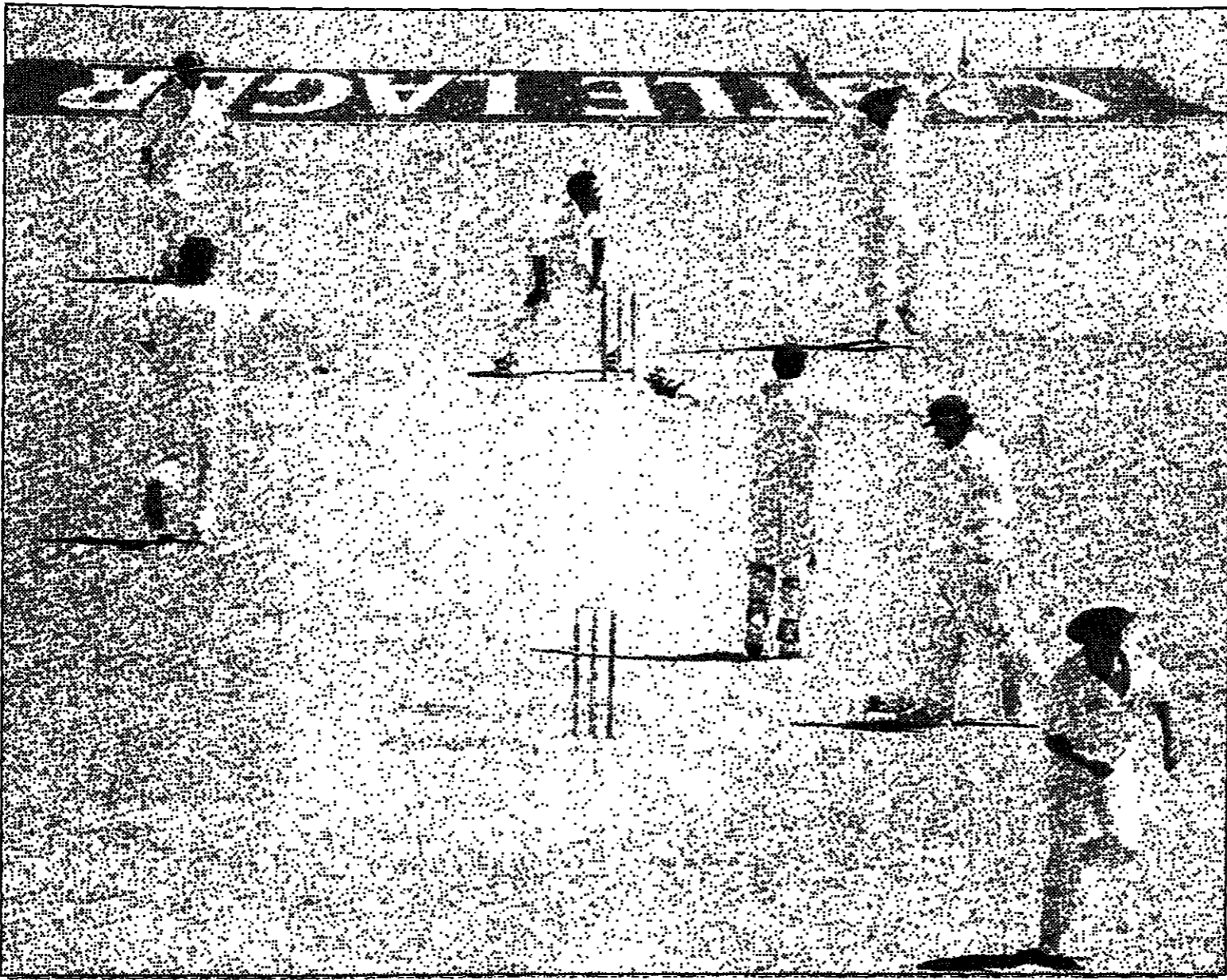
Mike Selvey in Cape Town sees a TV row but little fight

IN THE end South Africa won at a canter in the afternoon Cape sun. Asked to make only 67 to win after tea, Andrew Hudson (27) and Gary Kirsten (41) made such merry work of another packed Newlands that it was all over in less than 16 overs. The winning boundary, hit by Kirsten off Graeme Hick, sparked a cacophony of celebration.

This win by 10 wickets came after a spirited England fightback, with a fifth-wicket partnership of 72 from Graham Thorpe and Hick taking the tourists into credit. It even threatened to make batting life hard for South Africa as Hick launched an assault on the left-arm spinner Paul Adams, which included two huge straight drives in a row. But then Hick fell leg-before to one that kept low from Shaun Pollock, who produced an inspired spell of fast bowling. It gave Pollock the best figures of his brief Test career, five for 33, and South Africa the series: the last six England wickets fell for only 19 runs, the final four in the space of 10 balls, as the tourists were dismissed for 157. It was as if the flight had drained out of England.

But in line with beer-match tradition, they have agreed to play a one-day game against Western Province here tomorrow, as much to give practice to the many other England players here as anything else. The Western Province spokesman insisted that the tourists were doing so out of the goodness of their hearts: Raymond Illingworth insisted they were doing it for £5,000. Someone is in for a shock.

So a series that for four matches had plodded along like a coalman's horse finished in a tumble of wickets and a blaze of boundaries — and a contrary story over the dismissal of Thorpe. The left-hander, in his first significant innings of the series, had reached 59 when he played a delivery from the left-arm spinner Paul Adams off his hips to short fine leg and was called for a run by Mike Watkins. Thorpe was late setting off, and the sharp Hudson made a direct hit on the stumps at the bowler's end with Thorpe struggling to make his ground.



Orchard bloomer... Hudson's throw hits the stumps but the scampering Thorpe is given not out for the time being by the home umpire CLIVE HAYSON

It appeared to be a clear case for the third umpire and dry, Thorpe was out by at least a foot. A roar went up, alerting the fielding side, and the South Africa captain Hansie Cronje immediately spoke to Thorpe and Orchard.

Orchard, correctly, took the view that he had made a decision and that was it, right or wrong — and indeed he had committed a double error, by not using the technology on a close line-call and then by making a botch of the decision. Instead of laying down the law to Cronje, however, he was persuaded to consult Steve Randell, the Australian

official. As a result of that he called for the replay, which of course showed Thorpe to be out. Orchard then reversed his original decision. That Orchard made a huge initial error of judgment was obvious. Umpires of course do make botches of decisions, yet it remains axiomatic that their word is final. But it goes further at this level, for the International Cricket Council regulations for Test matches, agreed last October, state unequivocally not only that players must not appeal to the umpire to make use of the technology but that to do so constitutes dissent.

In this case, Cronje and others in his side not only implored Orchard to think again but in effect coerced an umpire into reversing a decision. Raymond Illingworth said he felt the right decision had been made but that the way it came left much to be desired. "It was made by the crowd in the President's Box," said the chairman of England selectors, "and you can't have that. Maybe there should be a rule that television cannot show a replay until after the next ball had been bowled. If the umpire has said not out twice, as Orchard did, then the next ball should have been bowled."

The match referee Clive Lloyd saw it differently, however, and although he fined Cronje half his match fee for obvious dissent he also went out of his way to exonerate Orchard from accusations that he had done anything other than exercise his right to change his mind without encouragement from a third party. Complete rubbish. Earlier Alistair Stewart, flat-footed once more and playing away from his body, was caught at first slip off Pollock. Robin Smith, who added 44 bristling runs with Thorpe, was caught by another poor Orchard decision after pushing forward to Adams, but behind pad, the ball deflecting from his front pad and past his glove to the wicketkeeper.

The end came when Peter Martin hooked Pollock to long leg where Adams — inevitably — made a steeping catch look easy. Adams has taken to Test cricket like a Boer to biltong.

Matthew Engel and full scorecard, page 15

## Where bulls have ways to shake Spurs



Frank Keating

YOU fear for its future but, as long as it remains the third round of the FA Cup is a truly madly, deeply magical phenomenon. The silk-ruffled dandified holly-toity swagger in, to be met by a handful of the bol polloi looking to ambush them at the barricades. Some scruffy anarchists have made their names from this tradition of New Year bandy: the likes of Peterborough, Yeovil, Sutton, Hereford. Just as readily, some toff teams seem more susceptible than others to being slain. None more than the two north London swanks.

Rheumy old men at Arsenal, for instance, still wrince when you say "Walsall 1933", and their sons and grandsons do the same at mention of Bradford Park Avenue (1948) or Northampton 10 years later. The haughty Hotspurs from Tottenham, too, are famously liable, and their traditional third-round vulnerability was never put better to me than by that stalwart former Port Vale player and manager Roy Simpson seven Januaries ago, the day before Terry Venables brought his side to the Potteries.

"It will be such a culture shock for them, especially if the weather's raw," he said. "Out of their thick-pile carpets and centrally heated stockbroker houses and then their snug luxury coach, and for all their international caps and snazzy blazers and Italian shoes they'll have to head straight into our barn-like, concrete-floored visitors' dressing room with its cold-white tiles, no coasthangers, only a couple of workbenches to sit on, and just one communal bath-tub. Our draughts can chill the marrow. And they only get a lukewarm cup of tea at half-time."

Inevitably Venables and his snazzy blazers teeth-chatteringly stunk away, well beaten.

promises gales and driving rain. Immediately before the kick-off a real live one-ton specimen of United's emblem will parade the touchline perimeter: the Hereford breed's national supreme champion, Free Town Kudus. It will probably be the nearest any Tottenham superstar has ever been to real-life rural Middle England.

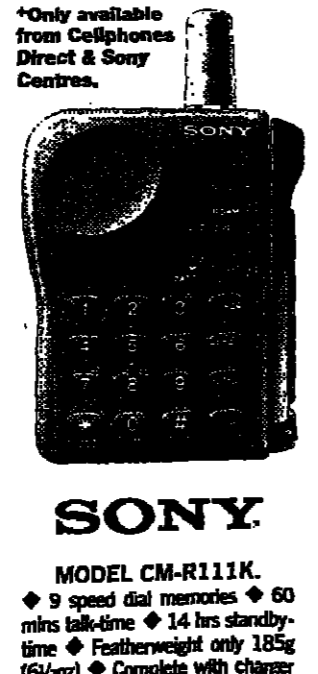
I suppose this hidden and un-savory rustic remoteness contributes to United's romance, but their regular slaying of football dragons has been dramatic all right. When they were still in the Southern League, United ambushed such comparative League strugglers as Scunthorpe, Exeter, Aldershot, Millwall and, by 6-1 in 1958, Queen's Park Rangers. Most celebrated of all, they beat Newcastle United 2-1 in 1972.

The season after that rainswept glory in the tea-time gloaming of Edgar Street's slurr and slosh. United won admission to the League and a year later in the third round courageously drew with Bobby Moore's West Ham at Upton Park.

It was the winter of Prime Minister Ted Heath's three-day week, and no floodlit evening games were allowed. For the midweek afternoon replay at Edgar Street, the touchlines of the dinky ground were ringed with church pews and chairs as 17,423 packed the rafters (only 8,800 will be allowed tomorrow). HAD left the Hereford Times reporters' room some 15 years by then, being seen off on my travels with a farewell party of epic amnesia at the plush and lush mahogany-doored Green Dragon Hotel where (by all accounts) I had misbehaved at the last by yanking carefully over the carpet of the cocktail bar. The morning of the 1974 replay against West Ham, which I was to cover for these pages, I took the early train from Paddington to buy myself a slap-up pre-match lunch at the old place. The prodigal son returns. It was the first time I'd been back. No sooner had the waitress brought to my table the pretentious great leather-bound menu to peruse than, through the kitchen's swing-door and across the cavernous, carpeted side-entrance, dashed the same black-tied head waiter I remembered from boyhood. "Not him, Miriam, not him," he snarled as he snatched back the menu. "He's barred for life." I had to grab a burger outside the ground. Real beef, though.

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## 'It was a fair cop,' says Cronje as match referee fines him £550

HANSIE CRONJE last night accepted that the match referee Clive Lloyd was right to fine him 3,000 rand (£550) for remonstrating with the umpire Dave Orchard over the Graham Thorpe run-out. "I deserved to be fined, and accept the fact that I was wrong," said South Africa's captain. Lloyd said afterwards that Orchard had not been influenced by Cronje's impassioned plea for a replay or by some 20,000 home fans screaming for Thorpe to be given out. But Thorpe said: "Once a decision is made you should not be allowed to go back on it. It looked like they were going to bowl the next ball but the roar of the crowd changed the umpire's mind. Orchard asked me if I minded if he called for a replay, and I said, 'No: you have made your decision'. He said, 'Okay, let's play on' — but then Cronje came over and had a go about using the technology. The rest is history."



TV or not TV... Cronje, Thorpe and McMillan discuss

## Guardian Crossword No 20,541

Set by Orlando

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

**Across**

- Horse has endless opportunity to go around coach (9)
- Become less obstructed above (3,2)
- Informed when given a movie role (3,2,3,7)
- Hasty eruption (4)
- Moralise, finding the ice is broken (8)
- Anaesthetic confined to backward prisms (9)
- Proficient in arithmetic, beginning with short division (5)
- Cake decoration is a winter phenomenon (5)
- Infringe about one day's evidence (9)
- Ring our number when copper goes in for some mathematics (8)

**Down**

- Put the queen in the team for a prank? (5)
- Sinatra cast as a skilled workman (7)
- A river? On the contrary, it's a river (4)
- Pain reaches inner part (4)
- Turn to account (10 TO ACCOUNT) (10)
- Police left by Poe to play in a police department and find milk product (6,4)
- Bullish Greek character concerned with holding in (7)

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,540**

8 "Capricious — try spleen" (Anon) (9)

12 Ample garment for athletes... (4,6)

13... athlete fired by club (4,6)

14 Girl, after the middle of April, gathering lilacs (9)

17 I shall be right in before deputy head is unwell (3-4)

19 Is not in favour of giving work to models? (7)

22 A month to live, perhaps (5)

23 Major artist in baby-carriage (4)

24 Look for low sound (4)

**The passions that feed into Rab C Nesbitt — the fizzed up Special Brew of class language and nationality — makes the show more than an excuse to laugh at drunken Glaswegians.**

سكنا من الاجمل